

Videotape of Waite said in offing

BEIRUT (R) — A privately-owned domestic news agency reported Wednesday that a videotaped interview with British hostage Terry Waite will be released within the next few days. The International News Agency, which is close to Shitate Muslim religious leaders, quoted unidentified sources in its report. "In the next few days, an interview with British hostage Terry Waite, similar to the interview with (U.S. hostage) Terry Anderson, will be broadcast," the agency said. On Sunday, a videotape of Mr. Anderson in which he said his captors have told him they would soon have "very good news" for him, was delivered to a producer of U.S. Cable News Network (CNN) in Damascus. CNN was offered the tape, and told it was made Sunday, by the Lebanese production company Al Mashreq. The producer of the station, Ghaleb Kanali, said he was contacted by an anonymous person saying he should ask CNN to prepare a list of questions for the Anderson interview. The tape was delivered several hours later. Telephone call to Al Mashreq went unanswered Wednesday and the news agency's report could not be independently verified. The agency has rarely reported on the hostages in the past.

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PLO leaders head for Moscow talks

TUNIS (R) — Three senior leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left Tunis on Wednesday for talks on the Middle East peace conference proposed for later this month. PLO sources named the delegation members as Mahmoud Abbas, Yasser Arafat and Suleiman Najib, all members of the organisation's Executive Committee.

Rockets hit Israel's 'security zone'

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas fired four Katyusha rockets into an Israeli-held South Lebanon village on Wednesday and Israeli planes staged mock raids on Sidon, security sources said. The missiles slammed harmlessly into the village of Debel, five kilometres north of Israel and inside its 15-kilometre deep self-proclaimed "security zone" in Lebanon. The Soviet-made rockets were launched from the village of Haddata, on the tip of the zone and controlled by Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas. Few hours later, Israeli planes staged mock raids east of the port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and over its two Palestinian refugee camps. A bomb wounded three Israeli-backed militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) Tuesday. The blast prompted Israeli and SLA retaliatory shelling of several villages outside the buffer zone.

Israel, Yugoslavia resume formal ties

BELGRADE (AP) — Israel and Yugoslavia have agreed to resume diplomatic relations broken off since 1967, the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. The Israeli government on Tuesday "responded positively" to a Yugoslav note on the resumption of ties, said a brief statement carried by Tjedje news agency. Diplomatic relations were cut by the late Yugoslav president, Josip Broz Tito, in the aftermath of the 1967 war. Since Mr. Tito's death in 1980, there have been repeated calls in Yugoslavia for the reestablishment of relations. But federal authorities have said this was not possible while Yugoslavia remained chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, an organisation to which all Arab countries belong. Yugoslavia relinquished that role in Indonesia last month.

Ghazali in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali arrived unexpectedly in Tunis Wednesday for talks with his Tunisian colleague Hamed Karoui. Tunisia has expressed irritation with the activities of Tunisian Muslim fundamentalists living in Algeria. Members of the Al Nidaa movement are accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government. Mr. Ghazali arrived after Tunisian Interior Minister Abdullah Kelai visited Algeria last week.

Schwarzkopf gets army bodyguards

WASHINGTON (R) — General Norman Schwarzkopf, the retired leader of U.S. and allied forces during the Gulf war, has been assigned army bodyguards because of "radical groups desiring to do him harm," the army said Wednesday. "Because of the world and the society in which we live it has been determined prudent to provide temporary security for General Schwarzkopf," the army said in a statement. The statement did not specify how many bodyguards would be assigned to Gen. Schwarzkopf or how long they would serve.

Gadhafi in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi arrived in Cairo for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Middle East peace moves, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Officials said Colonel Qadhafi would also attend the wedding of Mr. Mubarak's eldest son Alaa Thunayy. The Foreign Ministry added that Syrian President Hafez Al-Asad would visit Cairo Saturday.

Peace should not be based on might or weakness — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Peace based on the strength and weakness of the parties involved will not last and the aspired-for peace should be comprehensive, just, durable and acceptable to the future generations, His Majesty King Hussein said.

"We are seeking to regain the rights of the Palestinian people and the other Arab countries' rights, which mean a return of all territories occupied in the 1967 war," said the King in an interview published Wednesday in *Sanaa* by the English-language weekly *Yemen Times*.

"We had hoped that the Palestinians would be able to represent themselves separately by themselves at the coming peace conference with all our support, but in order to overcome difficulties we had offered the idea of an umbrella in which a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation he elected by the Jordanians and the Palestinians respectively before uniting into one delegation," King Hussein said in the interview conducted by Yemen Times chief editor Abdul Aziz Al Saqqa, who is also advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Following the opening ceremony,

the peace conference will set up bilateral committees to hold negotiations with the purpose of reaching a common ground for all parties within the United Nations framework, King Hussein said.

Jordan is now involved in arrangements for the conference, and "we hope to leave behind us the present confined state and enter a stage whereby every one respects the other and to live the kind of life agreed on in the spirit and substance of the National Charter," the King said.

King Hussein told the *Yemeni weekly* that he would soon address the Jordanian people in a nationwide speech about the developments in the region.

"We have faced very severe circumstances that have deprived us of the opportunity of pursuing the implementation of the National Charter and aspired political pluralism that should be translated into new realities for life allowing all people to freely express their views," he said. "Indeed, we were overtaken by the developments in the region and could not implement our own program," he said.

The King said that: his planned speech offers him the chance to directly address the people with regard to the requirements of the present stage.

Only Saudi Arabia has honoured

its financial commitment to Jordan in implementation of the Baghdad resolutions and the air came when Jordan was facing very difficult circumstances, King Hussein added.

The creation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was instrumental in saving this part of the Arab land from occupation, King Hussein said. The Kingdom, he said, has, since its creation, faced one setback after another and was directly affected by the tragedies befalling the Palestinian people.

The road was never easy for the Jordanian people who stand firm along the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy and we cannot afford to see this Arab country fall under the heavy burdens for bigger than it can shoulder by itself," he said.

The King said that despite the difficult circumstances Jordan remains committed to the democratic march and keen on making it a success. Jordan is seeking to crystallise an experiment that could serve as a model for the Arab World," he added.

The King said that the media should back the positive trend towards democracy in the Arab World. Jordanian-Yemeni relations, the

(Continued on page 2)

Settlers, supported by Knesset members, seize Jerusalem homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Dozens of Jewish settlers backed by right-wing legislators moved into at least eight houses in an Arab neighbourhood in the heart of Jerusalem before dawn Wednesday to lay claim to 26 houses.

Police began evacuating the settlers several hours later from homes in the neighbourhood of Silwan, saying that their presence in the Arab district was disruptive and endangering public order.

Just after noon, Police Minister Roni Milo said an agreement was reached with government officials to have the settlers and legislators remain in one house until a legal opinion could be obtained on the legality of the seizure.

The agreement was reached after the settlers and legislators Gona Cohen and Elyakim Hacatz of the right-wing Tzahal party ignored a police deadline for them to leave the two houses they still occupied at midmorning.

The settlers, members of the Aretz Cohen movement, claimed they had received permission from the government to enter the homes, Israel Radio said. The settlers said the homes either were abandoned or bought by Aretz Cohen.

However, Mr. Milo said he did not think the group had government backing.

"It seems strange that in order to enter privately owned homes in Jerusalem, you have to come in the dead of night," he added.

There was confusion over how many houses the settlers seized.

Police initially said they took over all 26, but later reports said they moved into only eight, though they may have entered more of the houses.

Israel Radio reported that the settlers began moving in at midnight Tuesday which dozens of cars carrying Aretz Cohen supporters, musicians, cooking stoves and food arrived in Silwan.

Silwan is just outside the walls of the Old City and only a few hundred metres from Harari Al Sharif.

Jamal Abusel Abas, who lives in one of the houses seized by settlers, arrived at midmorning with his wife and five children and told police the house belonged to his family.

Mr. Abas, 43, said that six months ago, a government department in charge of property held by absentee owners sent him a notice that he must leave. Mr. Abas said he challenged the order in court, and that a hearing was scheduled Oct. 20.

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(Continued on page 2)

U.N. says ceasefire holding in north Iraq

GENEVA (Agencies) — A ceasefire has been agreed between Kurdish rebels and Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq, the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said Wednesday.

A UNHCR spokesman said Iraqi and Kurdish representatives and the governor of Sulaymaniyah province signed a truce accord at 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) Tuesday and it came into force an hour later in the region, scope of bloody clashes in the past week.

"Apparently the dissemination of the news of the ceasefire took some time, which is why shelling was still heard after 5 p.m.," spokesman Manoel de Almeida said. "Our reports are that it was quiet this morning."

Mr. de Almeida said officials at Sulaymaniyah hospital said Tuesday that while the fighting was "of concern to us," the coalition troops based in Turkey since July have no plans to intervene.

A spokesman for the allied coalition force in Iraq said Tuesday that while the fighting was "of concern to us," the coalition troops based in Turkey since July have no plans to intervene.

He noted the clashes took place well outside the "security zone" and added that there had been no refugees influx towards the zone.

When asked if the allied coalition force had plans to take any measures to prevent the clashes, he said "we don't speculate on any future events."

He said the three parties also gave assurances UNHCR trucks carrying

supplies from Turkey for a "winter shelter" operation would be allowed safe passage in northern Iraq.

The ceasefire agreement was signed by an Iraqi Defence Ministry official and the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, which groups eight rebel factions fighting for autonomy from the Baghdad government, a rebel spokesman said.

The Kurdish Democratic Party announced in London that its leader Jalal Talabani appealed to U.S. President George Bush, British Prime Minister John Major and the president of the U.N. Security Council to take action to stop the fighting.

Mr. Talabani said 50,000 civilians have fled Sulaymaniyah, Kalar, Kiki and Arbat. He claimed that columns of refugees travelling towards the Iranian border have been bombed by government forces.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said Tuesday that while the fighting was "of concern to us," the coalition troops based in Turkey since July have no plans to intervene.

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Palestinian envoys head for talks with Baker

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three key Palestinian negotiators left for Washington Wednesday to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and sort out the last details of Palestinian participation in a Middle East peace conference.

Palestinian sources said the negotiators — Faisal Al Huseini, Hamed Ashrafi and Zakaria Al Agha — flew to Washington via London.

They are due to arrive in Washington on Saturday.

Mr. Baker is returning to the region to remove the remaining stumbling blocks.

Israel has agreed to the conference provided the Palestinian delegates do not include members of the PLO and Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem.

The shape of the Palestinian delegation to the conference is one of the major remaining obstacles to peace talks. Israel insists the Palestinian delegates must meet its specifications but the Palestinians want better terms than those on offer.

The negotiators will explain the Palestinian position to Mr. Baker.

They will also seek clarifications and assurances from the secretary of state on U.S. positions on the occupied territories, Jerusalem and Palestinian self-determination.

Israel's government has ignored demands by right-wingers that Mr. Huseini and Dr. Ashrafi be arrested for allegedly breaking an Israeli law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Palestinian sources at the Palestine National Council (PNC) said the two attended a closed PNC session in Algiers last month and urged the delegates to support U.S. peace efforts.

Israeli police interrogated the two Palestinians for more than an hour Tuesday, but Police Minister Roni

Milo made clear they would not be prevented from travelling.

Washington has been working on letters of assurances for all the parties ahead of the peace conference. The letters set out the terms for the peace process.

The government used its prerogative not to license the public rally.

(Continued on page 2)



King down with cold; national congress delayed

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is suffering from a cold which has affected his throat, and has been advised by doctors to take rest, a Royal Palace spokesman said Wednesday.

"His Majesty has a cold, which has affected his throat and he is resting," the spokesman told the Jordan Times.

A Royal Court statement carried by Jordan Television said the King was advised by his doctors to remain in bed for some time.

The statement wished the King a speedy recovery and also announced that a national congress scheduled for Thursday has been postponed until Saturday.

The King is not well enough to deliver a 90-minute speech at the congress, the spokesman said.

In the national congress meeting, to be held at the Palace of

Culture, the King is expected to deliver a nation-wide address dealing with matters related to the Middle East peace process and the general framework of the proposed peace conference.

The national congress is expected to be attended by prominent personalities and representatives of all walks of life in Jordan.

King Hussein will review events and developments related to the current political stage and Jordan's endeavours over the past quarter of a century to find a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem as well as developments in the Arab countries' positions with regard to peace with Israel since 1967.

Those attending will include Parliament members, heads of unions and representatives of various public sectors.

Government-Constitution Bloc standoff may be easing; reconciliation possible

By Nermene Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The standoff between Prime Minister Taher Maari's government and the mainstream 18-member Constitution Bloc that reached a climax Monday seems to be easing off, opening the door for a possible reconciliation in the next several days, according to diplomats and officials.

"While the prime minister's reply to the Constitution Bloc's charges against him was very tough, and the government's response to the call by the 50 deputies was even tougher, they both left the door open for reconciliation between the two parties," said a cabinet official.

His view was shared by several Constitution Bloc deputies, who described a meeting their group had on Tuesday evening as an important step towards patching up differences with the government.

Those deputies said their bloc did not rule out a reconciliation effort either by the leader of the bloc, Thaonan Hindawi, or through third parties although there remained traces of "hardt pride" among most of its members caused by their exclusion from the recent cabinet reshuffle and Mr. Maari's counter attack.

Official sources said the government decided they wanted to hold a public rally in the neighbourhood planned to organize Friday, a day after His Majesty King Hussein was scheduled to deliver a major speech to a national congress on the importance of Jordan's participation in the peace process. (The national congress was postponed until Saturday due to a minor health problem the King suffered yesterday.)

The government also banned the distribution of Al Ribat, a weekly newspaper, of the movement which opposes Arab peace talks.

A cabinet minister warned the Islamic movement against entering a "long battle" with the government saying there would be "no wavering of the government's commitment to safeguarding the rule of law and protecting higher national interests."

Iraq said working on hydrogen weapon as well as atomic bomb

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq has been working on producing a hydrogen or thermonuclear weapon more destructive than an atomic bomb, senior officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Tuesday.

Hans Blix, director-general of the Vienna-based agency, and David Kay, American leader of a nuclear inspection team which returned recently from Baghdad, made the disclosure at a news conference after a private briefing for Security Council members.

Referring to documents brought back by Mr. Kay's team, Mr. Blix said: "One of these... shows that a programme was under way to produce lithium-6, a substance that has only one use, namely use in thermonuclear weapons."

Hydrogen bombs are more powerful versions of the atomic bombs dropped by the United States against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. No hydrogen bomb has ever been used in warfare.

U.N. officials charged with finding and destroying Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction have previously given extensive details of Iraqi plans to produce atomic weapons. But this appeared to be their first reference to evidence of a thermonuclear programme.

Asked whether Iraq had actually produced any lithium-6, Mr. Blix said: "The impression is that they had produced some, but what quantities we do not know."

He added: "All they talk about (in the documents) is their effort to produce kilogramme quantities of it, many kilograms."

No lithium-6 had so far been found.

Mr. Kay said that, on previous inspection missions, the Iraqis had denied having done any work

at all on lithium-6.

Both men said the Iraqi programme "spoke of an ambition to produce 100 kilogrammes a year," but neither would say how much of the material was needed to make a hydrogen weapon.

Mr. Kay's 44-member team was detained for four days in a Baghdad car park after refusing to surrender documents dealing with Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

The inspectors were eventually released after agreeing to give the Iraqi authorities an inventory of the data they had confiscated.

Personnel records show that Iraqi nuclear scientists were educated and trained in the United States, Britain, France, Poland and West Germany, Mr. Blix said.

Documents seized by Mr. Kay's team also showed that many countries and companies had provided Iraq with technology and training for its nuclear programme, he added.

However, he said most supplies were dual-use materials that did not necessarily indicate the vendor knew it was helping Iraq develop nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kay said that the Iraqis had failed to return about 45,000 pages of the most sensitive documents that the team seized on its first raid on Sept. 23, but lost custody of for about seven hours after Iraqi guards forcibly took the material back.

When the documents were returned, Mr. Kay said, many of the most sensitive volumes — identified by the red spine on their binders — were missing.

However, "we had photographed the cover pages of the documents," Mr. Kay said, and the IAEA is preparing a roster of the missing documents.

These documents mostly con-

tain progress reports on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programme, he said.

Earlier Tuesday, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuelar said it may be necessary to monitor Iraq's nuclear programmes indefinitely.

When asked by a reporter whether that would be required in light of Iraq's efforts to conceal its weapons development project within its civilian nuclear energy programme, the U.N. chief replied:

"That is a possibility, unfortunately."

Mr. Blix held the news conference after meeting with the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council to discuss long-term monitoring of Iraq's nuclear programme.

The committee did not take any action Tuesday. Western diplomats said the Security Council was expected to meet soon to consider ways to monitor Iraq's non-conventional weapons programme over the long-term.

Mr. Blix reportedly favours a ban on all Iraqi nuclear research except into the use of isotopes for medical, industrial and geological applications.

A confidential report from Mr. Blix to Mr. Perez de Cuelar said Iraq planned to design and produce a nuclear weapon at a research centre in Al Athear, about 165 kilometres south of Baghdad.

The research centre — described in the report as the hub of Iraq's secret \$10 billion nuclear programme — was only lightly bombed during the Gulf war. Western intelligence agencies apparently had failed before the war to determine the centre's significance, which was only learned through the documents seized by the U.N. nuclear inspectors last month.

Iraq says shortage of cobalt delays cancer therapy

NICOSIA (AP) — A shortage of radioactive cobalt, which has virtually no military use, has delayed treatment of 500 cancer patients in Iraq, a Baghdad newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored in Cyprus, quoted the Al Jumhouriya daily as saying the nuclear medicine hospital in Baghdad also was short of spare parts for radiotherapy equipment.

Although medical supplies are exempted from the embargo imposed on Iraq by the United Nations, sensitive supplies such as radioactive materials have been provided.

The newspaper quoted sources at the Iraqi Cancer Committee as saying the lack of radioactive cobalt delayed treatment for 500 patients.

The substance if an isotope used almost exclusively for medical purposes, said Terry Gander of Jane's Defence Weekly in London.

Its only military use is when large quantities of cobalt are placed around a nuclear bomb, turning it into a "dirty" weapon — meaning that it produces greater quantities of radioactive fallout.

But Mr. Gander said the amounts required for this would be much larger than any quantity that might be supplied for treating cancer patients.

Iraq also has reported shortages of other medical supplies and says hundreds of people have died as a result.

Fate of Israeli pilot obstacle to hostage deal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The fate of an Israeli pilot missing in Lebanon is the main stumbling block to settlement of the Middle East hostage crisis but Muslim fundamentalists have no idea of his whereabouts, a senior pro-Iranian leader said on Wednesday.

"The fate and whereabouts of (Israeli pilot) Ron Arad are still shrouded in mystery. Apparently he is not in the hands of (pro-Iranian) Muslim activists. We don't know where he is," the leader said.

"Things are moving in the right direction, things are progressing," said the leader who spoke to Reuters on condition he was not identified.

"One of the main stumbling blocks facing completing the swap is the fate of Ron Arad," he said. "Breakthroughs can be expected but closing this file totally depends on how much Israel is willing to bypass the issue of its pilot."

Arad, a navigator whose plane was shot down in South Lebanon in 1986, is the only one of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon known beyond doubt to have survived capture.

Israel wants confirmed information on the fate of its servicemen before freezing more than 300 Arab prisoners, a key demand for the pro-Iranian captors of up to nine Western hostages.

Diplomats in Beirut have said obtaining word for Israel on Arad's fate was a possible hitch to ending the seven-year hostage saga as no group or state had confirmed holding him.

The leader said giving Israel information on the fate of the remaining soldiers, whom he believed to be all dead, was not a

problem.

"But Israel will have to pay for the information and I think it will, eventually."

Israel freed 51 Arab prisoners and handed over the remains of nine guerrillas last month after saying it received word that one of its soldiers, captured by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), was dead.

Hizbollah, believed to be an umbrella for the kidnappers of Westerners, also holds another Israeli soldier, Yossi Fink, or his remains but has so far refused to give any word on his fate.

Another pro-Iranian source said last month that officials of the "Faithful Resistance," a guerrilla group which captured Arad, had offered to give information on his whereabouts if Israel freed Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and one of its leaders, Jawad Kafseh.

The Faithful Resistance was part of the pro-Syrian Shiite Amal movement but most of its leaders and guerrillas later defected to Hizbollah.

One of its leaders, Mustapha Al Dirani, maintains close links to Iran as well as to Syria. A Muslim source said there was a possible that Mr. Dirani had handed Arad to the Syrians.

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result of the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, especially in the northern parts of Jordan. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/max. temp. 13/24

Amman 16/31 Desert 14/26 Jordan Valley 17/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings:

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

WEATHER

Amman 75 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Abd Al Majed Al Shater ... 701405

Dr. Salih Tawfiq ... 858903

Dr. Kays Al Halabi ... 792522

Dr. Ismail Marja ... 776149

Firat pharmacy ... 661912

Renewal pharmacy ... 778336

Al Asema pharmacy ... 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945

Shmeissi pharmacy ... 637660

DRUD: Dr. Ammar Abu Eida ... (—)

Al Sustour pharmacy ... (963238)

ZARQA: Dr. Abd Ghazal ... (—)

Yasir, Mafraq ... (—)

Yasir, Madaba ... (—)

Yasir, Irbid ... (—)

Yasir, Ajloun ... (—)

Yasir, Ma'an ... (—)</

Symposium on children's TV and radio programmes calls for more educational, recreational shows

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on children's programmes on radio and television organised by the National Association for the Education of the Child ended in Amman Wednesday with a set of recommendations designed to upgrade the status of children and to boost their culture.

The symposium mainly focused attention on the radio and television as proper media for promoting the status of children and on providing programmes that would contribute towards children's development.

The symposium, which was organised under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and held at mark Arab Child Day,

urged Radio Jordan and television to prepare annual programmes to meet the Jordanian children's requirements of culture and to help develop their talents.

The recommendations stressed the need for directing more attention to the children of the occupied Arab territories through radio and television programmes.

Such programmes are needed to enhance the Arab people's steadfastness and their will of resistance. Children under occupation are also in need of educational programmes, which they miss due to repeated school closures by the occupation authorities, a statement at the end of the symposium on Radio Jordan since 1959.

The participations in the two-day symposium urged Jordanian universities and educational and information institutions to conduct studies and research on

programmes presented to children through the media to promote improvements.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has offered a special reward for the best media work serving children and the symposium has set up a committee to work out rules for such an award.

Upon opening the symposium, Queen Noor honoured a veteran broadcaster who had been presenting children's programmes on Radio Jordan since 1959.

Participants later reviewed several working papers dealing with children's programmes and educational and recreational activities.

Relief agency to open office in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Relief Agency "Israa" is to open an office in Amman in order to supervise charity work to the needy and the distribution of relief supplies in time of need, according to an agreement signed between the agency and the Ministry of Social Development.

Israa is a non-governmental Islamic organisation established in Khartoum in 1981 to offer basic services to the feeble, the deprived, the displaced, victims of natural disasters and wars and those victimised because of their sect, religion, race and other reasons, said Dr. Saeed Abdulla Saeed, Israa representative in Jordan.

Israa, he said, seeks to spread the concept of charity and solidarity among members of society and lead the way in charity work and in translating ideas into concrete action.

He said that Israa will also try to develop manpower capabilities and provide the needy with proper training and qualifications enabling them to earn a living on their own.

Israa bases its principles and its actions on Islam and its will to complement those undertaken by other non-governmental organisations, Dr. Saeed said. Israa operates two types of offices around the world.

The first type, he said, is like those found in Arab and European countries and the United States which seek to raise funds to finance projects undertaken by Israa and hold contacts with the United Nations organisations to coordinate matters related to providing relief in times of need.

The second type are services offices like those found in Asia and Africa where countries are most in need. The offices there channel assistance and set up projects benefiting the needy, especially in health and education fields.

Dr. Saeed said that nearly 70 per cent of Israa's financial resources are drawn from UN agencies and the rest comes from benefactors, Islamic organisations as well as funds drawn from projects on Israa's investments.

In Jordan, Dr. Saeed said, the agency plans to carry out a number of projects in cooperation with concerned authorities like the Health Ministry, which will help Israa run mother and child care centres in the northern Badia Region. Altogether, Israa plans to open nine such centres in Jordan benefiting 90,000 people according to an Israa survey, Dr. Saeed said.

He said that Israa is contemplating another project and is providing training to women and rehabilitation services to handicapped students. He also said that Israa has been directing part of its aid to the Iraqi people.

Israa has sent four convoys of trucks laden with 250 tonnes of medicines and food supplies to Iraq. The Amman office is now preparing a fifth convoy to be sent to Baghdad soon, Dr. Saeed said.

Israa is governed by a board of trustees chaired by former Sudanese Prime Minister Al Sayyid Dafallah.

Citing budgetary constraints, Finance Ministry rules out raises for government employees

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times



Basel Jardaneh

work stoppages or demonstrations for salary allowances or salary increases at the moment, said the minister in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i daily.

Despite the limited financial resources, a decision in this regard could be taken once the 1992 fiscal budget has been passed by the Council of Ministers, Mr. Jardaneh said.

Asked about the prospect of the government responding favourably to demands by those who continually hold

ais in the absence of allowances for the specialists and those are shouldering heavy duties, he noted. He said doctors working in government hospitals are constantly required to do extra work.

Therefore, he said, the government decided that specialists should receive an allowance for their respective specialisations and those doing extra work for their efforts.

Referring to other groups like the geologists (nearly 150 of them and workers employed by the Jordanian Ports Corporation (nearly 400), who have threatened to strike on Oct. 27 for one day, the minister said that the Finance Minister will examine each case on its own merit.

Geologists President George Haddadin had submitted to the government a memorandum from 150 geologists demanding increases that would cost the Treasury JD 120,000 annually.

Justice minister issues new guidelines urging judges to impose stricter penalties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Justice Minister Tayseer Kanaan Wednesday issued a circular to court judges to take extra deterrent measures in their rulings against those firing arms or driving recklessly with the lives of people either by firing arms or through their reckless driving. He urged judges to be very strict with violators of the laws in these particular matters and to impose heavy penalties on them.

A statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Tuesday said that a total of six

persons were killed during August 1991 from stray bullets fired by accident or during festivities.

Among the latest victims of stray bullets was a six-year old boy, Mohammad Burini, who was hit by a stray bullet during a wedding ceremony near his home in Zarqa.

In another circular, the minister requested all judges to put on their robes during court sessions. It also said that lawyers should follow similar guidelines during court sessions.

The minister said that the donning of robes was in implementation of a 1991 law which was recently ratified by a Royal Decree.

Mr. Kanaan visited Zarqa Wednesday and met with Governor Mohammad Shobaki, who accompanied him on a tour of the city's courts where they heard the views of judges concerning various court procedures and problems encountered in the course of discharging their duties.

Mr. Kanaan said that the Justice Ministry was trying to improve the courts' performance.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Abdal Raaf Shousha, Khalil Jareb and Mohammad Husein Abdulla at Abdal Husein Shousha Foundation (Open 10 a.m. till 8 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Rashid and Maha Abdal Karim at the British Council.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Ismael Khayyat, Mohammad Abdulla, Khamis Mohammad, Ali Mansalawi, Khalid Wahl and Hameed Ali at Baladna Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gardens Street from Safeway).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hamed Al Bustami at Alfa Art Gallery (opening ceremony at 5 p.m.).

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "The Archaeological Contributions to the Decipherment of Minoan Linear A" by Dr. Edwin Brown, from the University of North Carolina, at ACOR — 7 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Feature film entitled "Mr. Smith goes to Washington" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.
- ★ Video on Mozart opera "Don Giovanni" at the Goethe Institute — 7 p.m.

JOB VACANCY

The Royal Embassy of Belgium in Amman is seeking to employ an administrative officer.

The applicant should be holder of a B.A., fluent in Arabic, English and French and be able to translate and type Arabic. Interested applicants should send a detailed C.V. with photo to the following address:

Administrative Attaché
Belgian Embassy
P.O. Box 942
Amman

Jordan, Sudan agree to set up committee to promote trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Sudan have set up a joint economic and trade committee to discuss effective measures to promote economic cooperation and to revise existing trade protocol between them.

Agreement on this step came in talks between official delegations from the two sides, which began at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Wednesday.

The two sides agreed that the joint committee should concentrate its attention on a working plan to promote bilateral cooperation in the near future, according to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Jordanian side was led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Abu Raghib and the Sudanese team was led by Sudan's Minister of Trade, Cooperation and Supply Ibrahim Abdulla, who arrived in Amman with his delegation Tuesday evening.

The Sudanese minister voiced his country's deep appreciation of Jordan's continued efforts to promote unity and solidarity among Arab countries in the face of common challenges and expressed hope that the joint committee would overcome obstacles that impede high-level cooperation and trade exchanges between Sudan and Jordan.



Jordanian and Sudanese delegations Wednesday held talks on establishing joint economic and trade committee (Petra photo)

Dr. Abdulla expressed his country's desire to benefit from Jordan's experiences in various fields, particularly in the pharmaceutical industry.

For his part, Mr. Abu Raghib described Jordanian-Sudanese relations as unique and underlined

the importance of promoting economic cooperation to benefit the two sides to increase the volume of trade.

Dr. Abdulla's visit is expected to last several days during which he will continue to meet with government officials to discuss trade and economic ties.

Council approves IAEA agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the transboundary movement of perilous and radioactive waste has been approved by the Council of Ministers.

The council said in a statement Tuesday that under this agreement, the Kingdom will not allow radioactive materials to be buried in Jordanian territory or pass through Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan was one of 110 nations that signed the international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste. The agreement is reached in the Swiss city of Basel in 1989.

The cabinet also gave approval to a Jordanian-Libyan agreement reached during a visit to Libya by Minister of Labor Abdal Karim Al Dughmi. The agreement covers cooperation in labour-related matters, vocational training, health and education.

In addition, the cabinet

approved a protocol which is designed to promote Turkish-Jordanian tourism cooperation and the minutes of deliberation

signed by the prime ministers of Yemen and Jordan during the Higher Joint Committee meeting held in Amman last month.

The agreements cover cooperation in economic, culture and trade fields.

Symposium on environment being held in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) and its partner, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany, on Wednesday organised a symposium in Karak on means of protecting the agricultural environment.

The Jordanian and the Iranian sides to the talks will explore the prospect of establishing Iranian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Tehran as well as organising trade exhibitions in the two capitals with the aim of orienting the public on Iranian and Jordanian industrial products.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Ali Abu Raghib visited Iran last month and arrived at an agreement with the Iranian government on promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors in the two countries.

Mr. Abu Raghib said following his return that he discussed with the Iranian minister of industry scopes of cooperation in joint industrial ventures and described the outcome of his visit to Iran as very good.

The two sides also agreed to set up a joint committee to meet periodically in Amman and Tehran to follow up on the implementation of agreements.

The society is driving to find proper solutions for environmental

AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL FAMILY BRUNCH FRIDAY & SUNDAY



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Come and meet the Marriott clown.

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INVITATION

to International Central Tender
No. Yu 5/91
Construction of the Faculty of Educational Sciences
Building of
Yarmouk University
Irbid-Jordan

Contractors in building classified category 1 or 2 and foreign contractors who wish to participate in this bid are invited to contact the secretary of the Central Tenders Committee, Yarmouk University as of 12.10.1991 to receive a copy of the tender document No. Yu 5/91 about the construction of the building of the Faculty of Educational Sciences, with an approximate area of 13,000 sq. metres inside Yarmouk University campus/Irbid. The last date to deposit the offer will be 25.11.1991 at 12 o'clock and in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Any offer having any conditions or reservations contradictory to the tender invitation conditions will not be considered.
2. The project is partially financed by the World Bank and by the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
3. The price of the bid copy is JD200.
4. Last date for selling bid copy is Oct. 30, 1991.
5. Financial offers to be deposited at the tender box at the Central Tenders Committee not later than 12 o'clock, noon, of the date fixed above.
6. The foreign contractors are requested to submit technical and financial proposal. The evaluation of the technical proposal is made on the basis of the criteria and put forth by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Chairman
Yarmouk University Tenders Committee
Irbid, Jordan
Tel: 51533 YARMUK JO
Fax: (652) 274725

Weekender

Oct. 10, 1991 **A**

Published Every Thursday

Nobel's prizes — from scandal to national asset

By Lars Foyen
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel caused a sensation when he bequeathed his fortune to set up the Nobel Prizes.

Swedes found out about the prizes only after Nobel's death in 1896. Protests followed when the inventor of dynamite's will stipulating that the awards would go to "the most worthy... whether he is Scandinavian or not" was disclosed.

"The early reaction was very negative," Baron Stig Ramel, head of the Nobel Foundation, told Reuters in an interview ahead of the 1991 awards, which began

with the prize for literature Oct. 3.

"It was not the best environment for a donation which would primarily benefit foreigners," he said.

Nobel, probably the richest Swede of his time, donated the annual income from his fortune — worth about \$160 million in today's money — to finance prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace.

At the time Sweden was an impoverished agricultural and highly nationalistic country.

Right-wing politicians felt the money should have been reserved for Swedish scientists. The left denounced the

prizes as a trick designed "to make capitalism look bit better," Baron Ramel said.

Nobel's relatives unsuccessfully contested the will for three years. Swedish academic institutions and the Norwegian parliament's peace prize committee, named by Nobel to select the laureates, were reluctant to take on the task.

"They were surprised to say the least and saw it at first as a virtually impossible job," said Baroo Ramel, director of the foundation investing Nobel's money and administering the prizes.

But the prizes, first awarded in 1901, were an instant success, partly because they were the first of

their kind and partly because of the money. Each prize was worth about \$1 million in today's money, the same amount as the 1991 awards.

"It was an enormous prize, some 22 annual salaries for a professor, and well worth the trip to Stockholm," Baron Ramel said.

What was once a scandal has become an invaluable public relations asset. The Foreign Ministry estimates that a third of foreign press coverage of Sweden concerns the Nobel awards.

In Sweden, the annual award ceremony and royal banquet on Dec. 10 — the anniversary of Nobel's death — are the social events of the

year.

"As I see it, the international prizes were Nobel's most important invention, one dramatic than dynamite," Baron Ramel said, stressing their impact on Swedish science.

"Prominent foreign scientists like to come to Sweden for some reason, to make themselves known, to do research and to establish contacts," he added.

The mystery of Nobel the man, who at the age of 18 wrote a long love poem starting "You say I am a riddle," is part of the lure.

Why did he give away his fortune, and why did he choose to award brilliance in those five specific fields?

Why did the owner of an arms company establish a peace prize?

Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833 of poor Swedish parents. He grew up in the Russian city of St. Petersburg where his inventor father moved in search of new markets. He later studied chemistry in Paris where he based his business empire.

The overriding reason for the peace prize to Norway was that Nobel wanted to honour the union of Sweden and Norway. It broke up in 1905, but Norway still presents the prize.

The international prizes reflected Nobel's own cosmopolitan background and interest. A Chemist who dab-

bled in physics and medicine, Nobel also wrote poetry and promoted peace congresses.

The economics prize, officially the Alfred Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, came later. It was established in 1968 by Sweden's Central Bank which finances it.

Two years before his death, Nobel acquired Swedish arms maker Bofors for a grand scheme to invent weapons which he hoped would end all wars.

Nobel wrote to his close friend, Austrian peace activist Bertha von Suttner: "The day when two contending armies and destroy each other within seconds, all civilised nations will retreat from war and demobilise their armies. My factories may perhaps put an end to war before your congresses."

"That is an idiotic thought. Dynamite was a safe explosive which reduced accidents, and it was not used in war," he said.

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Baroo Ramel dismissed the suggestion that the peace prize was a way to make up for Nobel's work with explosives.

Norwegian 'solves' riddle of ancient Crete

By Alister Doyle

Reuter

OSLO — A Norwegian scholar says he has deciphered texts written almost 4,000 years ago in Crete that solve an ancient riddle — and weaken Greece's role as the cradle of Western civilisation.

The language used on the Mediterranean island by the Minoan race — whose origins have puzzled archaeologists for centuries — had roots in Arabia or Ethiopia, says Kjell Aartun, who has spent his life studying ancient texts.

Hitherto, many scholars believed Minoan was a form of Greek.

"What about Greece, the cradle of Western civilisation?" said Mr. Aartun. "Before, we thought that Greece influenced Crete and the Minoans. Now it turns out that the river has flowed in the opposite direction."

The texts, ranging from

erotic poetry used in fertility rituals to humdrum book-keeping items, demonstrate that the Minoans, who built fabulous labyrinthine palaces in Bronze Age Crete, had major influence throughout the Mediterranean.

"This is a major contribution to the ancient history of Crete," said Rudolf Macuch, an emeritus professor of languages at the Free University of Berlin familiar with Mr. Aartun's work. "He shows that there was a pre-Greek culture in Crete."

The Minoans flourished from roughly 2000 BC until they were overcome by a disaster about 1450 BC — a millennium before the golden age of Athens. Many archaeologists believe a tidal wave swept over Crete after a cataclysmic eruption of the volcanic island of Santorini to the north.

Mr. Aartun, 66, told Reuters the oldest Minoan texts, in Hieroglyphs or a parallel

form of writing known as Linear A, were a form of Semitic, a group of languages including Arabic, Phoenician, Aramaic and Hebrew.

"The Minoans were a Semitic people, belonging to the south Semitic language region," he said. "These facts are documented by the close relationship to south Arabic and Semitic languages in modern Ethiopia."

Mr. Aartun said he had degrees in theology, Semitic languages and Greek and had studied at universities in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Israel. His speciality is Ugaritic, an ancient Semitic culture first unearthed in Syria in 1929.

The texts from Crete reveal a well-developed welfare state which was also feudal in character," Mr. Aartun said.

"The inscriptions tell us that the ruler provided various kinds of goods to different kinds of people, including food, water and cleaning

substances to the elderly and the infirm.

"The Minoans founded colonies on the Greek islands, in Asia minor and on the European mainland," he said, adding that Minoan culture — from dress to architecture — was widely adopted.

Mr. Aartun said that even names of many of the Greek gods had Semitic roots, such as "Aphrodite," the Greek goddess of love.

He said he had translated 170 of the 350 or so Minoan texts.

A later type of writing found on Crete and dating from after 1450 BC is known as Linear B. The key to Linear B was discovered in the 1950s by Briton Michael Ventris, who showed it was a form of Greek. This led many to assume that the older Linear A was also Greek.

"It turns out that the Greeks never discovered a system for writing," Mr. Aar-

tun said. "First they adapted the writing of the Minoans to Greek in 1450 BC. Then they began using the Phoenician script, which is at the root of our own alphabet."

"Aartun said full results of his findings would be published in a book in Germany next year.

Mr. Aartun said his interest in Crete started when some friends sent him a postcard in the 1980s depicting a discus from Phaistos — one of the four Minoan palaces on Crete — inscribed with undeciphered Hieroglyphs in a spiral. His friends suggested he should try to read it.

He found that the words were a religious poem dating from about 1700 BC.

"The priest or priestess would have read it as a man and woman acted a fertility ritual," he said. He said eroticism was the central element of the religious texts on Crete, "as in many ancient cultures."

One mystery of the Minoan palaces — a lack of fortifications — was perhaps due to the dominance of Minoan sea power, which deterred attack and gave the Minoans influence as far as Spain. The Minoans seemed to have been a peaceful people.

In Greek mythology, the great Cretan Palace of Knossos under King Minos was a maze inhabited by the minotaur — half-bull, half-man to which Greek maidens and young men were sacrificed.

Theseus, a prince from mainland Greece, eventually slew the minotaur, unwinding a thread as he walked the labyrinth to ensure he could retrace his steps. Minoan frescoes from Knossos also depict men leaping over bulls.

But Mr. Aartun said he had not managed to solve one riddle — texts studied so far make no mention of sacrifices or of the role of the bull.

Prince Albert of Monaco

Prince Albert won't be rushed into marriage

By Penelope Hocking-Vigie

Reuter

MONTE CARLO — Prince Albert of Monaco, one of the world's most eligible bachelors, is in no hurry to get married.

"Of course I want to get married eventually and have kids," he told Reuters in a rare interview. "But it's not for other people to decide when the time is right."

The 33-year-old heir to the throne of this tiny Mediterranean principality is tall, blond, an accomplished sportsman and very, very rich.

He is often photographed in the company of attractive women, and ambitious mothers send him photos of their daughters. But he has no intention of bowing to pressure.

"There are people around me — I don't mean my family — who drop hints and try to steer me into marriage," he said.

"But I'm not going to get married just to make some people happy. It's my life, after all."

Were Prince Albert to announce his engagement, it would be welcome news in a family that has often been hit by tragedy.

Prince Albert's mother, the former U.S. film star Grace Kelly, died in a car accident in 1982. And last year his elder sister Caroline lost her husband, Stefano Casiraghi, in a boating accident.

Prince Albert has tended to shun the limelight in recent years, concentrating instead

on learning from his father, Prince Rainier III, how to run the principality — the world's second smallest state after the Vatican.

Although he does his best to keep his private life to himself, he does not always succeed.

This year a photographer from the popular French weekly *Paris Match* snapped Prince Albert on his yacht looking affectionately at an unidentified blonde woman.

"The photo was taken from afar, and I was obviously unaware of it," he said.

"I don't know how they get their information. Each time I took my boat out this summer, I didn't know in advance where I was going. But they always seem to find me. I know they have informers."

When Prince Albert finally accedes to the throne, he will take charge of a thriving financial centre, tax haven and retreat of such international celebrities as ex-Beatle Ringo Starr, singer Shirley Bassey and tennis star Boris Becker.

The opening of European markets after 1993 and the likely movement of capital away from Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese control in 1997 are all seen as likely to put pressure on Monaco's traditions of intimacy and discretion.

"We'll try to accommodate as many (investors) as we can," Prince Albert said. "Obviously, some thinking will have to change here. But, like my father, I'll be committed to maintaining the traditions and lifestyle which are our greatest assets."

Peak will challenge Everest as the world's highest mountain

By Jules Stewart

Reuter

LONDON — Mountaineers planning to tackle the world's highest peak will have to set their sights on a new summit — in about 150,000 years' time.

That is when Pakistan's Nanga Parbat, at 26,000 feet (8,126 metres) now merely the ninth-highest mountain on Earth, will overtake 29,028-foot (8,845 metre) Everest in Nepal.

"The race began about 30 million years ago, when the Himalaya was first formed," said geologist Nigel Harris. That was some 20 million years after India collided with the rest of Asia.

"India originally lay in the southern hemisphere, where it fragmented from a vast southern landmass," said Harris, a professor of earth science at Britain's Open University.

Oceans shrink as well as

expand, due to a process called subduction. In the contraction of ocean basins the continents on their opposing sides converge.

The giant Indian continent drifted north at about 20 centimetres a year, when it hit something and moved sideways.

A sea, known as Tethys, which had separated India from Asia, disappeared. But India's northward push continued at about five centimetres (two inches) a year, eventually giving birth to the 3,000 kilometre long Himalayas, the world's youngest and fastest rising mountain range.

It is still rising today.

Prof. Harris, who has conducted research projects in some of the least hospitable areas of Tibet and Central Asia, said a new measuring method called fission-track dating has enabled scientists to determine the rate of growth of the Himalayas, and identify which peak is rising

fastest.

Nanga Parbat, the huge, lonely northwest cornerstone of the Himalayas, has long been a sobering challenge to mountaineers.

The Austrian climber Hermann Buhl was the first man to set foot on its summit in 1953.

He described it as: "That peak of many names, sometimes called the fatal peak, or the mountain of terror ... that pitiless domain demanding its holocaust and giving nothing in return, luring me into its thrall, never to set them free."

Fission-track dating allows an estimate to be made of the rate at which rocks have reached the surface of the Earth's crust by examining microscopic tracks left in minerals by nuclear fission.

"This method indicates that Nanga Parbat is being uplifted at about one centimetre a year, almost double the uplift rate for most of the Himalayas," said Prof. Harris.

More recently some 200 people died earlier this year in a quake west of Nanga Parbat.

"There will be more," said Prof. Harris.

Where laughter comes from

By Mark Adduci

ALL it takes is for one person in a group to suggest a joke-telling session and everyone is soon avalanche with jokes as all those present chime in with their own contributions, telling their anecdotes with their own personal styles, (sometimes starting with the punchline).

Every one, has his own personal joke that he likes to remember and relate over and over again so that it is no longer the content that makes you laugh, but the actual tension built up when the person repeats the same story again. The only consolation is that laughter is the only addictive thing that no one has yet come out and said is bad for you. Unless you relate the jokes as my classmates and I did in school; in the middle of class.

We would be sitting there listening to some terribly boring lecture and suddenly a joke would come to mind. This of course only happened in lectures where our teachers were so serious that a smile was a taboo. Knowing this made the joke even more tempting. Writing a small note on the edge of the note book was all that was needed to announce what was coming. Soon the entire joke would be in writing and you and the person next to you would be ready to explode with laughter. You would hold the laughter back just like your angelic neighbour would be doing, and you hold off, and off and then one of you would give out a small sound and that would be enough for the dam to break. So that never mind getting into trouble with our teacher, never mind that a fuming teacher would now be standing right next to our desks or that we would soon be kicked out of class. Our major concern was whether we would ever be able to stop laughing long enough to inhale. And it is downhill from there because even if by a miracle of power (like being told you will be sent to see the doctor) you stop, all it will take to jump-start you again is to attain eye contact with your neighbour. That is the only situation I know of that indicates that laughter is "bad" for you.

So where do jokes that cause laughter come from? Who makes them up? And how do they get around so fast? Since these are not easy to answer it is best to discuss instead people's different styles in telling jokes. We know this person whom we ask to repeat (everytime we see him) the incident when he had to take his aunt and her daughters home after a dinner invitation at his house. "My aunt and her two daughters are obese," he would announce. "Although they would scare any taxi driver speechless, I felt it was only courteous to take them home at 11 p.m. in my small one-door sports car. I would open the door and, squeeze the car seat as far as it could go and my aunt would fit in, followed by her first daughter. When the second daughter would follow suit, I would hear the car door from the other side open and my aunt would walk right out of the



car from the other side. They just didn't fit in there. After two further attempts, and having one of them sit next to me being completely out of the question, I decided to take two separate trips to crane them home," he would conclude.

Maybe you do not think this is funny, but the way he relates the story; I and all those who hear it end up in hysterical laughter.

Laughter, as summed up by one philosopher, is a means to puff away surplus tension in a kind of respiratory gymnastics. Scientifically it is a motor reflex produced by the coordinated contraction of 15 facial muscles in a stereotyped pattern and accompanied by altered breathing. But personally, thank God for laughter.

Research supports earlier studies that man originated in Africa

By Paul Reiter
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first human ancestor, the so-called "mother of us all," was a primitive woman who lived some 200,000 years ago in Africa, say researchers who have made a new study of worldwide genetic patterns.

"There was a population in Africa of individuals ... of anatomically archaic humans, whose descendants at a later time underwent the transformation to modern humans," said Mark Stoneking, an anthropologist at Pennsylvania State University.

The study is based on a genetic study of individuals from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, New Guinea and North America.

Among the early African group would have been a single woman who first possessed a genetic pattern that can now be traced, through an endless series of mutations and overlapping similarities, to all humanity, he said.

In a study to be published Friday in the journal *Science*, Mr. Stoneking and his coauthors claim that this common ancestor lived between 166,000 and 249,000 years ago somewhere south of the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Other experts in the field consider the study and its conclusions to be highly controversial and one researcher, Eric Trinkaus, called

the findings "a house of cards" based on assumptions that cannot be proven.

Mr. Trinkaus, professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico, said that the Stoneking study cannot be considered a final conclusion on the origin of humanity.

Some calculations suggest that the estimate by Mr. Stoneking could be off by a factor of two or three in time, which could push the origin back another 500,000 or so years, he said.

Mr. Trinkaus said that two European scientists, Lourant Excoffier of the University of Geneva and Andre Langaney of the Museum of Man in Paris, used the Mtdna technique in 1989 while searching for a white common ancestor.

They concluded that the uncertainties were too high "to put a clock on this."

Mr. Stoneking's study is a refinement of a 1987 report by him and other scientists, including the late Allan C. Wilson who described it as a search for "the mother of us all."

Mr. Stoneking said the new conclusions are based on an analysis of genetic information from 189 people around the globe.

The researchers compared the patterns contained in mitochondrial DNA, Mtdna, a genetic code found in all cells and which is always inherited from the mother. By tracing patterns found in the Mtdna, Mr.

Stoneking said the researchers could construct branches of a tree of inheritance that leads finally back to the root, or source of the original Mtdna.

In effect, he said, the study reflects "the maternal history of our species."

Mr. Stoneking said the research overcame a weakness of the 1987 study by including 121 specimens from seven different African tribes as well as eight African Americans.

LETTERS

Friends in Jordan

Dear Sirs,

Please publish my name and address in your letters to the editor column.

My name is Anthony D. DiMario, 29 years old and an American businessman.

It is my intention to tour the Middle East including Jordan next year and I would appreciate having friends in Jordan.

My address is: Anthony Davis DiMario,
#16033077,
P.O. Box 9000,
Seaville,
Tx. 75159,
USA.

Thank you,

Anthony Davis DiMario.

B.C.



JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 10

10:20 Feature Film

The Million Dollar Duck

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Beyond West World

The Lion

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Positive J.D.

Starring: Stephanie Rascoe, John Davis Steve Formhous and Lora Lane

Friday, Oct. 11

8:30 Coach

Starring: Craig Nelson, Jerry Van Dyke, Clare Carey and Kris Kamm

9:10 Shakespeare

Othello (Part 3)

10:00 News In English

1:20 W.L.O.U.

Starring: John Shea, Helen Shaver and Harris Yulin

Saturday, Oct. 12

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News In English

Thursday, Oct. 10

8:30 Who's The Boss

9:10 Our House

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

En Toute Innocence

Starring: Michel Serrault and Nathalie Baye

Friday, Oct. 11

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Beyond West World



The Golden Girls on JTV Channel 2 Sunday at 8:30

Wednesday, Oct. 16

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

4 Summer Story

Friday, Oct. 18

8:30 Coach

9:10 Shakespeare — Othello

10:00 News In English

10:20 W.L.O.U.

Do The Wrong Thing

The main story of the news department is that of a young criminal who tried to rape an old woman and was beaten by the police to get his confession.

Sunday, Oct. 13

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

Thursday, Oct. 17

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 Beyond West World

Wednesday, Oct. 15

10:00 Who's The Boss

9:10 Our House

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

En Toute Innocence

Starring: Michel Serrault and Nathalie Baye

Saturday, Oct. 12

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

Monday, Oct. 14

ture.

1989 — President George Bush says he "wouldn't mind using force" to oust Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

1990 — Lebanese army leader General Michel Aoun seeks asylum in French embassy in Lebanon following attack on his stronghold by Syrian forces.

1990 — Speaker of Egypt's parliament and four security men assassinated.

1991 —

1991 —

1991 — Normans under William the Conqueror defeat English at Battle of Hastings.

1990 — Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Prussia at Jena, and Saxony at Auerstadt.

1884 — The Mahdi takes Omdurman (Khartoum, Sudan).

1930 — Attempted fascist coup in Finland.

1933 — Germany leaves disarmament conference and League of Nations.

1936 — Belgium renounces military alliance with France.

1939 — British battleship Royal Oak is sunk in Scapa Flow with loss of 800 lives in World War II.

1944 — British and Greek troops liberate Athens from Germans in World War II.

1955 — Province of West Pakistan comes into being.

1967 — Communist terrorists in Hong Kong boost bomb casualties to 21 and kidnap British official.

1970 — Death toll in Philippines typhoon reaches 783.

1973 — Sanya Thammak, university administrator, is named premier of Thailand after violent clashes between troops and students.

1988 — Yugoslav government announces wage increases to offset unpopular austerity programme.

1988 — Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz becomes first Arabic-language writer to win Nobel Prize for Literature.

By The Associated Press

Friday, Oct. 11

10:00 Who's The Boss

9:10 Our House

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

En Toute Innocence

Starring: Michel Serrault and Nathalie Baye

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En Toute Innocence

Starring: Michel Serrault and Nathalie Baye

10:00 News In English

10:20 Equal Justice

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

En Toute Innocence

By Francesca Gee
Reuter

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain — An explosion of long pent-up creative fever among young Soviet filmmakers rocked the prestigious San Sebastian International Film festival which ended recently.

"This is the best time ever for filmmakers in the Soviet Union," said "new wave" director Karen Shakhnazarov. They were now producing about 500 films a year, more than three times as many as they were making six years ago, he said.

The 39th edition of the festival included a special section dedicated to the small Kurier (messenger) Production House, which is run and part-financed by Shakhnazarov.

He took advantage of a

Spanish film festival pays tribute to perestroika directors

sweeping reorganisation of the well-known Mosfilm Studios in 1987 to set up Kurier.

Shakhnazarov decided to concentrate on helping promising young directors to make their first feature-length work. So far, he has produced a dozen films, five of which have been distributed abroad.

"Producing someone's first movie is always a big risk," said Predrag Golubovic, director of the Yugoslav Film Institute.

"Kurier is significant because it is the one studio in the whole world that only produces first films."

Shakhnazarov himself told Reuters that Kurier's success reflects an outburst of vitality in Soviet cinema since state

censorship started crumbling with the advent of perestroika in 1985.

Comparatively low production costs — an average 1.5 million roubles or \$50,000 for a feature film compared with millions of dollars in the West — and the availability of funds from private investors have helped this renaissance, he said.

His own work, from uncontroversial musicals in the early 1980s to probing meditations on his country's political past, bears witness to the recent changes in Russian cinema.

His latest film *Assassin Of The Tsar*, a reflection on the 1918 murder of the imperial

Russian family, stars British actor Malcolm McDowell in the first ever Soviet-Western co-production.

"I started as a director of musical comedies because it was the easiest way in those days to be honest, to do what you wanted," the 40-year-old Shakhnazarov said.

"But even in those films some scenes were cut. If you showed an old house, they would say, 'why are you criticising the Socialist system? This house needs a new roof? Everything had to look perfect, everybody had to be happy.'

"I had problems with one film (*Winter Evening In Gagry*) because my hero died of a

heart attack. They said it was too pessimistic ... as if people didn't die under socialism."

His work has won several international awards and *Assassin Of The Tsar*, which he says shows the Soviet system's first step on the road to Stalinist terror, was part of the official competition at this year's Cannes Festival.

Other Kurier directors have also done well, such as actress Elena Tsyplakova whose first movie as director, *Garden Of Heaven*, won the new directors' award at the San Sebastian Festival last year.

Shakhnazarov says his growing fame has helped him get bank loans to finance

Kurier movies after initial state subsidies dried up.

"Finding money is not a big problem. There is a lot of money floating around in the Soviet Union at the moment and people are looking for places to invest it," he said.

Some producers may even

be unwittingly helping to

launder ill-obtained funds, he said with a smile.

But Mosfilm's low production costs — which attract many Western directors to film in Moscow — are already rising, and the drive towards a market economy may drastically dampen creativity.

"This year it costs 1.5 million roubles (to make a film)

but three years ago when we started Kurier it was 400,000," Shakhnazarov said.

Foreign distributors are poised to enter the huge Soviet market and they want pictures that make money, he said.

"Instead of the censorship of state we'll have the censorship of money."

While directors in the comparatively rich Russian Federation will probably be able to continue to work, their colleagues in smaller, poorer, breakaway republics may find it a lot harder, he said.

"Georgia has three million people and they were making 15 films a year thanks to (central government) subsidies. Now it has declared

independence and they won't have the money to make 15 films, it's impossible with such a small market."

Golubovic said that for many years the Soviet Union's huge but closed market — it has more cinemas than any other country — virtually guaranteed returns for investors in Soviet films.

But a surge in imported Western films and an increase in the number of television channels and the availability of video equipment are bound to cut revenue drastically, he said.

"It's a normal development. After decades of limitations there has been an explosion in filmmaking. Now a selection will take place. Soviet cinema will soon be in a situation similar to that of other countries."

Bad boy choreographer Morris thrives on love-hate in Europe

By Eva Kaluzynska
Reuter

BRUSSELS — American choreographer Mark Morris has shocked and horrified the Belgians — but he's coming back.

He caused outrage in Brussels by performing a strip-tease on stage and insulting Belgium's favourite dance troupe.

Feted throughout the dance world as the most brilliant choreographer of his generation, Morris quit Brussels for New York this summer after a stormy three years as head of Belgium's National Dance Company.

But despite his bad-boy antics Morris has established himself as a top name in Europe and has been invited back to Brussels and Paris.

In Brussels, he will stage his *Hard Nut*, a revamp of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker

that was a hit for him last year in a city he slammed as narrow-minded and anti-gay. Paris will see his *Dido and Aeneas*.

He will also direct a new production of Mozart's opera *The Marriage Of Figaro* at the Theatre de la Monnaie in Brussels in December. This will be Morris's first major venture as opera director.

In the meantime, he is creating new work and hoping to pull in big enough crowds to keep his company afloat financially.

The Belgian capital provided Morris and his dancers with state-funded theatres, studios and money. Brussels became a showcase for productions that won ecstatic reviews from European critics.

"I have been able to work all day every day with all of my dancers. That's very unusual... it's been very good and very nourishing for my company," he said in an in-

terview shortly before he left. But the Belgian public never learned to love the sharp-tongued, openly homosexual American dancer who stripped on stage in one of his early shows here and said the work of his predecessor, Frenchman Maurice Bejart, was dreadful.

Bejart quit Brussels after 27 years and took his company to Switzerland after a disagreement with Gerard Mortier, who runs the Monnaie Theatre. Mortier has now demonstrated his faith in Morris by asking him back as a guest.

A star at 19, Morris worked with leading choreographers including Twyla Tharp before forming his own company in 1980.

"Mark Morris, go home" was one of Philippon's early messages, in English to make sure Morris got the point. "Vulgar... a staggering lack of imagination" was his verdict.

"That asshole Philippon. You may quote me. So he loooovooed Allegro, then the next review he took all that back, like 'I didn't know what I was doing. I accidentally liked this thing from this talentless, idiotic American savage,'" Morris said.

Tall and powerfully built, with a mane of black corkscrew curls and piercing blue eyes, he is the biggest man in his company and looks un-

Germany pays homage to Ernst

By Steve James
Reuter

DUESSELDORF, GERMANY — Painter Max Ernst, adored by the Avant-Garde and reviled by the Nazis as a degenerate, is finally reaping praise in the homeland he deserted for the more artistically fertile soil of Paris, New York and Arizona.

"Dada Max" who embraced dadaism and surrealism in a long career, even has Germany's two rival art centres fighting to honour one of the most influential German artists of the 20th century.

"In comparison with Picasso, (Mas) Beckmann or Matisse, Ernst is still little known — 70 per cent of his works are in private hands," said Armin Zweite, director of Duesseldorf's North-Rhine, Westphalia Museum which is staging a major Ernst retrospective to mark the centenary of his birth.

The Duesseldorf show includes some 200 paintings and sculptures that Ernst produced right up to his death in 1976. It has already been to London's Tate Gallery and Stuttgart and will be exhibited at the Pompidou Centre in Paris at the end of the year.

The rival Ludwig Museum in Cologne, which houses one of Europe's finest collections of modern art, has also staged an Ernst exhibition.

"Maybe with this centennial people will come to realise how important an artist Max Ernst was in the 20th century," said Gerhard Kolberg, curator of the Ludwig Museum.

His show concentrated on the period the artist spent in France after leaving his home near Cologne in 1922 until escaping an internment camp in France in 1941 for New York.

The centrepiece of the Cologne exhibit was Ernst's famous "Reunion Des Amis," a huge 1923 painting containing portraits of Ernst himself and his friends in

Paris who formed the core of the surrealist movement.

Ernst's searching of the inner recesses of the mind when dreaming or between sleep and waking, resulted in some of the most striking and bizarre artistic images of the century.

The Cologne exhibit included not only paintings, drawings and letters by Ernst but works by his fellow surrealists — such as poet Paul Eluard, painter Andre Breton and Giorgio Chirico and photographer Man Ray.

"Everybody loves everybody's expressionists, but they turn their backs with disgust at the brilliant drawings in the pissoirs," Ernst once wrote.

Cologne's Kolberg had this assessment: "He was a terrible painter at first, but he learned. More important were his ideas and new techniques."

It was after military service during World War I that Ernst turned to the Dada school that was agitating for a new art.

"He was not as popular as Picasso, Miro or Dali, because he was more academic. Max Ernst was also a cynic," said Alfred Weitz, senior editor of Germany's Art magazine.

According to Werner Spies, the art professor who put together the Duesseldorf retrospective, Ernst despised the bourgeois art establishment in Cologne, Paris and New York.

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Felix de Weldon — a maker of giants

By Phillipa Neave

NEWPORT, Rhode Island — Felix de Weldon is a diminutive man, but he has never considered this a problem. He sees himself as the Napoleon and Julius Caesar of this world: small men do great works.

What matters is thinking big. De Weldon has earned a worldwide reputation for his colossal sculptures that tower above the inhabitants of dozens of capitals around the globe. Of the 1,200 or so monuments he has created, the Iwo Jima war memorial in Washington D.C. depicting World War II

soldiers planting the American flag, is among the best known. It stands 48 feet high (16 metres), the size of a five-story building.

De Weldon, whose works can be found in 44 American states, is currently working on another megaproject for a Korean War Memorial to be erected in California. On a more personal note, he sculpted the official coronation busts of Kings George V and VI of Britain, has immortalized Churchill, Lloyd George and Allenby and has also sculpted the heads of American Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter and Reagan.

The house has gone quiet these days. Since the death of his beautiful wife Margot four years ago the house, nicknamed "the Acropolis of Newport" because of its neoclassic Greek style, is as soundless and seemingly peaceful as the hundreds of sailboats gliding in the harbour below. Yet De Weldon is far from living the life of a recluse. "I am invited out to every meal," he says, to explain why he let the cook, butler and other servants go. Despite a hectic social life, De Weldon rises with the birds and works many hours a day in the property's stables that he has converted into a studio. He is currently working on the model of the colossus of Rhodes, commissioned by the Greek-American Community. De Weldon's statue, to be 128 feet high (42 metres), will tower above the Mediterranean on a cliff where the fabled colossus built by the ancient Greeks and considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World is supposed to have stood.

De Weldon started his career at 16 when he won a \$250,000 prize for the design of a monument in his native Austria. He later studied anatomy and psychology — "to know the body and the mind," he says — at Vienna University and furthered his art studies in Rome, Greece and Egypt where he spent several years. His fee for a bust is about \$15,000. "Monuments run into hundreds of thousands of dollars or even millions," he notes.

"While monuments often involve years of work, De Weldon can sculpt a head in just hours. A face comes alive with incredible speed under his hands as he deftly carves away slivers of clay. "My sculptures look alive because my models are alive," he says.

"You can't enlarge just any

sculpture and make it monumental. It has to be designed specifically for the large scale. It has to fit in with the landscape and setting. This requires not only the gift of creating, but also great knowledge of perspective, engineering, landscape architecture, anatomy, and the technical know-how of making the model and casting it in bronze," De Weldon explains.

He considers that one of his major feats is the national Independence Monument in Malaysia, a structure depicting a group of triumphant people, erected in 1966. The 32 feet figures, weighing between 12 and 16 tonnes, were each cast in a single piece at a foundry in Rome, where De Weldon spends most winters working in his large adjacent studio.

The Fondaria Artistica Francesco Bruni, one of the oldest foundries in the world, has been used by the likes of Picasso and Henry Moore. "Their casting is utter perfection, you don't find a pin-hole anywhere, it comes out absolutely smooth. I think it is the best in the world," says De Weldon, who is planning to have the Rhodes Colossus cast there.

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"You can't enlarge just any

sculpture, I never smoked, I never drank, but don't ask what else I did. The only vices I know are vice presidents, vice-chairmen, vice-chancellors."

De Weldon, who speaks six languages fluently, still travels extensively, dividing his time between summers in Newport, a palatial home in Washington, D.C., and a substantial ranch in Virginia. Rome and Paris are also visited yearly. He was knighted by the British and can legitimately call himself Lord De Weldon, but never does: "I don't need to, I impress people with my sculptures!"

He also impresses them with his unusual domestic arrangements. Since his wife could not have children, De Weldon set about finding somebody suitable with whom he could carry on the family name. "My family goes back to the 11th century, so I wanted to have an heir," he explains. He got more than he bargained for. It turned out that the young lady elected for the task was living with another young lady so, in order to keep them both happy, he had a child with each. The two boys, Byron and Daniel, respectively 21 and 20 are both attractive, but that is about all they share.

Byron, who summers at Beacon Rock, lives along his father's motto to the full and spends much of his time cruising around in his BMW. After a year at Harvard, he dropped out. "My father is a great inspiration for me," he says. He clearly shows some talent for sculpting but his ambitions lie elsewhere. "I want to stop all the suffering on this planet," he explains rather grandly, adding that he has set up a firm called "The Better Living Company" to do environmental clean-ups.

Daniel is as shy and soft-spoken as his brother is flamboyant. He works during the summer painting houses in

Felix de Weldon is currently working on a model of the Colossus of Rhodes which, when finished, will be 128 feet high and will tower above the Mediterranean on a cliff where the original Colossus is supposed to have once stood.

Washington where he lives on his own. Although his father, who has many friends in high places, pulled all the strings to get him into the country's top naval academy, Daniel is planning to go to university to study dentistry. "He wants to torture people," grants De Weldon.

Both young men had better carve out their own careers because De Weldon does not believe in making it too easy by handing over the fruits of his life's work on a silver platter. Most of his money is likely to go to a charitable foundation and the Beacon Rock house will probably become a museum. "They have to prove themselves, like I had to do when I was their

age. My parents were well off, but from the age of 11 I had to earn my own pocket money to pay for my pleasures," he says.

Continuing to work with gusto, he is executing a series of 16 small sculptures based on the theme of love. There will be 250 copies of each made, with a \$7,500 price tag per sculpture. Although most of his work is in the purest classical tradition, De Weldon's critics charge that this series is too commercial. De Weldon shrugs it off: "I am doing these small figures for recreation, because it is a wonderful recreation to have all these beautiful girls coming to pose for me" — World News Link.



Felix de Weldon (right) is seen here with his son Byron who, although not yet certain that he wants to follow in

Genetic defect tied to alcoholism may tie to other disorders — study

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A genetic defect that some researchers have linked to alcoholism appears to play a similar role in other behavioural disorders, a study says.

This is the first research linking the mutation to Tourette's Syndrome and other mental illnesses, says the author of an editorial accompanying the study in the latest *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

But another study in the

Journal found no evidence that the defect is associated with alcoholism. Its lead author, a Yale University psychiatry professor, was sceptical about the results showing a link to behavioural disorders.

"They will be exceptionally important if they can be replicated, but until then I don't think people should get too excited" said Dr. Joel Gelernter of Yale Medical School.

The gene involved is believed to play a key role in experiencing pleasure. At

issue is whether the presence of a genetic marker known as "A1 Allele" on that gene predisposes a person to alcoholism or other behavioural disorders.

The study that found a link involved 314 non-Hispanic whites and was led by Dr. David E. Comings, genetics director at City of Hope National Medical Centre in Duarte, California.

The A1 Allele was present in more than two-fifths of the 104 alcoholics studied and the 147 patients with Tourette's Syndrome, a disorder marked by involuntary jerky

movements and uncontrollable vocal outbursts including grunts and profanity.

The marker also was present in about half the 104 patients with an attention deficit disorder and the 33 patients with autism.

It also was believed to play a role in post-traumatic stress disorder and drug abuse, Dr. Comings said, noting that the incidence of the marker was higher in patients with the most severe symptoms.

The marker was present in 14.5 per cent of the 69 patients known not to be alcoholics and free of the other

disorders.

"These results suggest that the A1 Allele ... is associated with a number of behavior disorders in which it may act as a modifying gene rather than as the primary cause," the researchers wrote.

"By this we mean that other yet-to-be-discovered genes are the primary cause" of the disorders studied, they wrote. "If an individual carrying one or more of these genes happens, by chance, also to inherit the modifying gene, the symptoms are likely to be more severe."

The study stems from previous research in which Dr. Comings studied whether a single yet-to-be-discovered gene caused Tourette's Syndrome and several other behavioural disorders.

In a study published in *Jama* in April 1990, researchers said they had pinpointed for the first time a high association between the A1 Allele and alcoholism.

"We didn't postulate that it was the cause ... we postulated that it was definitely playing a role in causing the risk for becoming an alcoholic," said Dr. Kenneth Blum,

a co-leader of that research and chief of addictive diseases at the University of Texas health Science centre at San Antonio.

Dr. Blum said Dr. Comings' findings are "very supportive" of his research.

Dr. Robert Cloninger, professor of psychiatry and genetics at Washington University in St. Louis, said Dr. Comings' study is the first to show a high association between the A1 Allele and alcoholism.

"The evidence to date suggests that the association is weak and therefore will not be convincingly established until very large samples are studied," they wrote.

Researchers find genetic basis for form of inherited Alzheimer's disease

By Paul Recer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers studying three generations of a family with Alzheimer's disease have isolated a mutated gene that may trigger one form of the brain disorder, giving new evidence that it can be passed from one generation to another.

Researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine examined blood, tissue and clinical histories of 30 members of an Indiana family over three generations and found that those who suffered from Alzheimer's all had an alteration in a single gene on Chromosome 21.

Jill Murrell, a co-author of the study, said Thursday that the finding provides a genetic basis for a type of Alzheimer's disease that starts at an early age, but a link between the gene and the disease that occurs randomly after the age of 65 has not been established.

Familial, or inherited, Alzheimer's disease accounts for between 15 to 20 per cent of the 250,000 new American cases of the disease diagnosed annually, Dr. Murrell said.

reld said that only some forms of inherited Alzheimer's disease start at an early age.

The disease is a fatal disorder of the brain that involves the progressive death of brain cells. The disease is marked by the steady, irreversible erosion of memory and ability to reason. Finally, brain function is destroyed and death results.

One of the prime markers of the disease is the deposit in the brain of a substance called Amyloid. In the Indiana study, researchers found a mutation in the gene that leads to production of this substance.

Dr. Gene Cohen, acting director of the National Institute of Aging, said the Indiana finding was "very important" in the effort to diagnose and combat the disease.

"It adds to an understanding of the cascade of events that go on in Alzheimer's disease," he said. "The more steps in this sequence that we can identify, the better are our opportunities to intervene at some point."

In a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the Indiana researchers report they found evidence in three family gen-

erations of a mutation in a gene that causes the body to make a chemical called "Amyloid precursor protein." This chemical is an early step in forming Amyloid, which is a prominent feature of Alzheimer's disease.

Affected members of this family show clinical onset of the disease with short-term memory problems in their 40s," the study said. "Other cognitive difficulties develop

as the disease gradually progresses. Disease duration is typically seven years."

Dr. Murrell said the investigators found that in the American history of the family, the disease appeared in the father in the first generation. She said he died at the age of 57.

In the second generation, three of nine children died before age 60 of the disease.

All three developed symptoms of the disease in mid-

life. The three died at ages 49, 48 and 53.

Tissue samples from those patients had been saved and Dr. Murrell said a genetic analysis found the Amyloid precursor protein mutation in each patient. An analysis of samples from the five surviving siblings, however,

showed no mutation.

In the third generation, said Dr. Murrell, the mutation has been found in a 44-year-old man who already

has developed Alzheimer's dementia. She said samples from the fourth and youngest generation have been taken, but she declined to give the results.

The disease may go even further back in this family's history, she said.

The family is originally from Romania and we believe there are brothers and sisters back there who were affected," said Dr. Murrell. She said plans are being

made to research the Romanian arm of the family.

Dr. Murrell said that isolating the gene mutation does not mean it is the sole cause of Alzheimer's. She said the disease is a complex process that may involve a number of other genes.

"We're not quite sure what this mutation does in the cascade of changes that leads to Alzheimer's," she said.

Investigators are now attempting to put this muta-

tion into laboratory rats. This could lead to establishing a model of familial Alzheimer's in rats, enabling researchers to test drugs that could slow or block development of the disease, said Dr. Murrell.

Other researchers in the study were Martin Farlow, Bernard Ghitto and Merrill D. Benson.

Science, which published the study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Anti-virus drug relieves chronic fatigue syndrome

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — An experimental anti-virus drug can dramatically relieve the extreme tiredness, memory loss and other debilitating problems of people severely afflicted with chronic fatigue syndrome, researchers said.

Doctors tested the medicine on people so gravely ill that they often were virtually bedridden, unable to get up to use the bathroom, balance

checkbooks or even watch television.

The study showed that injections of the medicine — Ampligen — restored patients enough so they had the strength to take care of themselves and think more clearly, although many still showed some effects of the disease. The medicine is the first to have any proven impact on the mysterious illness.

Dr. William A. Carter of Hahnemann University of Philadelphia, co-inventor of

Ampligen, presented the findings at an American Society for Microbiology meeting.

Besides opening the possibility of a treatment for the disorder, the research also provides clues to its cause. It suggests that viruses are ultimately responsible for the illness, but the body's own response to the infection may make the symptoms much worse.

The just-finished study was a last-minute addition to the Society's annual meeting on infectious diseases, and organizers said this indicated its potential impact.

"We don't accept late presentations very often, but we did this because it was so important," said Dr. Clyde Thorsberry of Vanderbilt University, vice chairman of the programme committee.

Although the disease may have been around for hundreds of years, current concern about the illness emerged after doctors in a clinic village, a resort on Lake Tahoe in Nevada, witnessed an unusual cluster of people with unexplained fatigue in 1984.

When similar cases turned up elsewhere, many doctors dismissed it as part of a psychological disorder, perhaps depression. For a time, it was disparagingly called "yuppie flu."

Now, the disease is taken seriously. In the latest study, doctors at four hospitals tested Ampligen on 92 people whose lives had been ruined by chronic fatigue syndrome. Half received Ampligen injections for up to six

months. The rest got placebo shots.

Before treatment, the patients needed custodial care. They could not cook, shop or reliably perform the simplest household tasks.

"As a result of Ampligen therapy, the typical patient went from needing help most of the time to only needing help now and then for sustained tasks, such as cutting the grass," said Dr. Carter. "The routine activities of living completely turned around by use of the drug."

Those in the comparison group were unchanged during the study period.

"To me, the most interesting aspects of the study is that whether this turns out to be a useful long-term treatment or not, by seeming to show an effect, it clearly implies that there is an immunological or viral cause to this illness," Dr. Komaroff said. "There is no way this medicine is treating a psychological disorder."

In the study, doctors found that victims had elevated levels of Interleukin-1, an immune system chemical that prompts the body to make antibodies to fight infections.

The researchers theorise that the body may make dangerously high levels of this and perhaps other related chemicals to fight a chronic viral infection. And it is the natural chemicals, not the virus, that cause the symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome.

Dr. Carter said the researchers took brain scans that revealed tiny holes in the brains of victims of the disorder. Some had 30, 40, even 50 holes in the frontal area of the brain that deals with memory and other intellectual functions.

Just how these holes might be involved in the disease is unclear, although Dr. Carter speculated that they could somehow result from over-production of immune system chemicals.

Dr. Komaroff reported the presence of similar holes two years ago. He said they also seemed to occur, though less frequently, in brains of healthy people.

Ampligen is made by Hem Pharmaceuticals in Rockville, Maryland.

Housewives most likely to suffer from 'yuppie flu'

SYDNEY (R) — Housewives are more likely to suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), commonly known as "yuppie flu," than any other group, according to an Australian medical expert.

"Women suffer more because they spend more time around the home, where no safety rules apply, unlike the workplace," said Dr. Mark Donohue, director of Sydney's Environmental Medicine Centre.

At home there are no rules limiting the time spent exposed to domestic cleaning chemicals and polishes. Allergies to dust mites in the home were another problem, according to Dr. Donohue.

"It is not a case of a bored housewife making out she has something wrong with her, CFS symptoms start from the continued exposure to her domestic environment," Dr. Donohue said.

He presented the findings of his research on CFS to a recent convention of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in Hobart, on the island state of Tasmania.

Up to 40,000 Australians are believed to suffer from CFS, which mainly affects women in their 30s, although patients range from 11 to 70 years old, according to Dr. Donohue.

Dr. Donohue said his research also showed that CFS affected the brain and nervous system before attacking the immune system.

Asthma doctors warn against overuse of inhaled drugs

on these drugs to increased morbidity and mortality."

The council's warning is the latest development in a growing controversy over Beta2-Agonists with the rising death rate.

Professor Romain Pauwels of Belgium told the conference that it was not clear that patients who die while using Beta2-Agonists, inhaled drugs which asthmatics take to relieve the symptoms of an attack.

Several medical studies in recent years have linked the use of Beta2-Agonists, including the widely used brands Berotec by Boehringer Ingelheim and Ventolin by Glaxo Holdings Plc, to a possible worsening of the chronic respiratory disease in some patients.

However, other asthma specialists attending a European Respiratory Society meeting in Brussels said there was still no conclusive data linking Beta2-Agonists with the rising death rate.

Asthma is the world's most common chronic disease, affecting some five to 10 per cent of the population in industrialised countries. But unlike every other disease, both the death rate and incidence has steadily increased over the past two decades despite better treatments, diagnosis and understanding of its causes.

Consequently, doctors are looking at asthma drugs to determine if they may be worsening the problem, possibly by masking the underlying seriousness of the disease.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

AS TIME GOES BY
By Dorothy Martin

ACROSS
1. Hawaiian desert
5. Go by
9. Norma —
13. Vicars —
14. Made of wood
15. USSR mountain
20. Dr. —
21. Premium for
22. " — Wednesday"
23. " — Wednesday"
24. Box
25. " — Wednesday"
26. " — Wednesday"
27. " — Wednesday"
28. Box
29. " — Wednesday"
30. " — Wednesday"
31. Br. gun
32. Hannibal crossed them

DOWN
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2. Hawaiian isle
3. Father Harry
4. Cat
5. Defect
6. — Ball
7. — Ball, sufferer
— in me (Moby)
8. Omen
9. Bill author
10. Color of grey
11. Oriental
12. "Swedes" —
13. Double curve
14. Most modern
15. Longing factor
16. Prong
17. Thug
23. Corral
24. Noisy activity

25. Kurt Wall opus
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Clear blue waters and golden sands are an irresistible attraction to Jordan's Red Sea resort of Aqaba (file photo)

Sea and sands of Aqaba regain their charm, lure tourists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deserted beaches and vacant hotels in Aqaba for over eight months during the Gulf crisis will be something of a nightmare that is best forgotten if present signs are any indication. Jordanian officials and tour operators are highly optimistic that the sun and sand of the Red Sea port as well as the distinct landmarks of history in Jordan would regain their magnetism and put the Kingdom back on the tourism map of the world as the season gets fully under way.

Aqaba has already entered what promises to be a busy season with the arrival of two Finnish tourist groups and others scheduled to arrive aboard chartered flights in the course of the next eight months.

"Things are looking a little brighter now, and business is picking up slowly but surely" — that is how Abdal Karim Kabariti, the minister of tourism and antiquities, prefers to describe the situation.

"What people needed was a reassurance that things are intact and everything back to normal in Jordan," said Mr. Kabariti, pointing out that Finnish demand for bookings Aqaba went up in a matter of few days after the arrival of the first group in late September.

The Ministry of Tourism, in conjunction with Royal Jordanian and European tour operators, is in the middle of a concerted campaign to project Jordan as a tourism destination and reinstate confidence in tourists and tour operators that the Kingdom is very much as stable and quiet as it used to be.

Tourist facilities in Aqaba resembled a ghost town in November last year, following massive cancellations of hotel bookings against the backdrop of fears of war in the region following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the massive Western military build-up in the Gulf. One of the main contributors to these fears were also

media-suggested scenarios of the Israeli army poised to attack the port.

Except for the odd journalists who visited the city to report on the situation there and the effects of the international embargo against Iraq on the port which served as the main transit point for Iraqi-bound goods, the dozens of hotels there did little business.

"At one point, we had just one guest for three weeks," said the manager of a leading hotel at Aqaba. "That was a climbdown from the five or six guests we used to have at any given point during the Gulf crisis," he added, preferring anonymity.

"Now we are almost full, and we have almost-full bookings until end of March," he said. "Although it might take more than one season to recoup our losses, we are confident that the situation will be back to normal soon."

The ironic observation of another hotel manager in Aqaba was that the tension in the Middle East during the Gulf crisis and the war that followed could even have been a blessing in disguise.

"Those who had not heard of Aqaba heard of it during the Gulf crisis when everyone focused on the port as the main transit point to Iraq and described how Aqaba's port facilities were idle and how trucks were parked along its streets after being deprived of cargo for Iraq," he said.

"Somewhere along the lines were also descriptions of how the sunny beaches of Aqaba were deserted in a marked contrast with the usual throng during the season," he asserted. "Perhaps this has helped to let people know that there is a country called Jordan and it has a port called Aqaba, with unique attractions," he added. "More importantly, these attractions are as intact as ever now."

"All it needs now is to tell those people Aqaba is alive and kicking and ready to receive them," he said.

George Bawab, general manager of Near East Tourist

(NET) agency which has lined up dozens of tourist groups to visit Jordan this season, believes that the message of "Aqaba is alive and kicking" is being sent by tourists already at the port city.

He said that the number of bookings went up from 30 to 190 for the second charter flight from Finland to Aqaba in the first week of October.

"Undoubtedly, those who arrived here on the first flight informed others that things were as normal as ever and Jordan was as stable as ever," Mr. Bawab said. "That is the best advertising one could hope for," he added.

In general, according to Mr. Bawab, "it is very very promising and we hope 1991-1992 season will be another booming year like 1989."

Although the focus of tourism in Jordan somehow remains on Aqaba, the attractions at the ancient rose-red city of Petra, the desert castles along the old caravan routes and the historical ruins in the Kingdom are all part of the package that Jordanian tour operators offer.

"Innovative tours" involving desert treks at night and visits to historical sites and routes are also being revived after being shelved during the Gulf crisis.

The best indicator yet of the shape of things for tourism — the second largest earner of foreign currency for Jordan — came when the Kingdom edged out six other countries as the venue for a convention of Italian tour operators in April 1992.

It is a vote of tourist confidence in Jordan," said Mr. Kabariti, pointing out that the tourist convention will lead to enhanced Italian interest in Jordan beyond the 700 to 1,000 tour operators who will attend the gathering and gain a firsthand experience of how things are like for tourists visiting the Kingdom.

Mr. Bawab, who expects NET alone to bring in a minimum of 24,000 tourists to Jordan during this season, said the

Kingdom had assumed the slot of a "destination on its own" for tourists — a shift away from its traditional role as a "mere gateway to the Holy Land" across the River Jordan.

According to Mr. Bawab as well as other tour operators who focus more on "Holy Land packages," tourists used to spend one day in Jordan — mostly visiting and Nabataean city of Petra — before crossing the river and a few hours on their way back to catch return flights home.

With the beginning of the Palestinian intifada in December 1987, fears ran high that the scenes of violent demonstrations and reports of instant Israeli curfews in the occupied territories would frighten off tourists and deprive Jordan of its share of the traffic to the Holy Land.

"But now Jordan is indeed a destination of its own for tourists" without any linkage in tour packages to Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land, said Mr. Bawab.

"Jordan is still a virgin. It has not been spoilt like other destinations in the region," he said. "The people are friendly and we don't rip off the tourists."

Officials and businessmen are also confident that the ongoing moves and prospects for peace in the Middle East would extend great help to the tourism industry of the region.

"We hope that the peace process will create an atmosphere of relaxation and tranquility conducive to tourism," said Minister Kabariti.

The spirits are also high of tour operators who saw the tourist traffic across the River Jordan double over the years.

"God willing, the peace process will lead to regional stability and do away with the stigma of violence that has clouded tourism in the Middle East for years," said George Massiki, general manager of Apollo Tours and Travels, which arranges "Holy Land" as well as a destination Jordan" packages.

Israel brushes aside U.S. concern

(Continued from page 1)
all understand that," Mr. Arens added.

Israel drew condemnation in 1981 after it bombed and destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The Washington Post reported in its Wednesday editions that the Bush administration, in a message to Mr. Shamir, had warned such flights risked a new military confrontation with Iraq that could interfere with U.N. efforts to disarm the Iraqi government.

It said the Israeli flights were apparently reconnaissance missions over a section of western Iraq where additional Scud missiles and launchers were discovered after the Gulf war.

U.N. inspectors have been hunting for any remaining Iraqi Scuds and launchers.

The Iraqi overflight and the U.S. complaint coincide with strains over the Bush administration's effort to delay consideration of an Israeli request for \$10 billion in housing loan

guarantees.

The Iraqi complaint said four Israeli F-15 warplanes were in Iraqi airspace for 30 minutes last Friday as part of a campaign to humiliate Iraq.

The violations, it said, confirm "the belligerent and expansionist character of Israel."

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyer to Mr. Perez de Cuellar requested him to intervene and "immediately to take all necessary measures to put an end to these violations."

The letter, dated Sunday but released Tuesday, called the intrusions "a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

The letter said that late Friday morning local time, four Israeli F-15 fighters entered from Syrian airspace, flew at low altitude and crossed the northwest border of Iraq.

Then, it said, they climbed to between 6,300 metres and 8,400 metres, flew over the region of Al Kain and Al Walid before heading at low altitude for the area of Al Nadhamayn on the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian border.

Mr. Arens also accused Washington of inflating Arab expectations on Wednesday and said he expected the United States to back Israel in Middle East peace talks.

"When Israel enters the process in which it will be negotiating with its neighbours, who are unfortunately all under totalitarian rule... I really do not expect the U.S. to be an honest broker," Mr. Arens said.

"I expect the U.S., the leader of the democratic community of nations, to stand by Israel's side," he told Jewish American fundraisers.

Mr. Arens suggested that Arabs may have been lured to the peace conference by Washington and said he feared that Mr. Baker had avoided unrealistic Arab hopes.

"To some extent I think they feel that they have received encouragement from the government of the United States to expect that Israel will make these concessions," Mr. Arens said.

Mr. Arens singled out U.S. support for the principle of "land for peace" — that Israel would return Arab land occupied in 1967 for guarantees of peace from its Arab neighbours.

mothers. The government has also set up many vocational training centres and employment services and in order to protect those temporarily unemployed. Furthermore, an unemployment insurance programme is being planned and will be implemented in the near future. In 1990, the government spent more than 15 per cent of its national budget on social welfare. This is expected to increase to more than 18 per cent in 1991.

Tourism

As a result of the nation's growth in both inbound and outbound tourism, many international airlines have been encouraged to put Taipei on their itineraries. An agreement was reached with Canada to exchange aviation rights and to establish Taipei economic and cultural offices in major cities. Agreements for direct flights to Taipei were also reached with Australia, New Zealand and Austria. In Taiwan, Eva Air, a newly formed airline company, a branch of the well known Evergreen Shipping Lines, recently received permission to begin international service on July 1, 1991.

Culture

In contrast to Taiwan's strong economic success and its transformation over the past decade from a traditional agricultural society into a modern industrial one has brought on a broad range of social problems and pressures that mostly derive from insufficient structural change. Industrialisation has brought a concentration of the labour force in cities and created employment insecurity. The radical shift in individual and household income and in working and living locations, has created significant problems which had an impact on the family as well. New forms of employment created new sets of health and accident problems. The arrival of the information revolution led to rising expectations concerning income, work environment, leisure activities, material possessions, social mobility and educational opportunities. Finally, the rising standard of living increased life expectancies. The ROC government has been quick to respond to the growing needs for social welfare services by making them readily available. The principal policy is a plan for nationwide health insurance which is scheduled by 1994 to broaden health coverage from the present 49 per cent to more than 90 per cent of the population. In addition the government has made provisions for socially and economically deprived groups, including the poor, elderly, handicapped, dependent children and working

Developments in Taiwan

Constitutional reform

SINCE Lee Teng-Hui took office as president on May 20, 1990, he has been working with Premier Han Pei-Tsun on promoting constitutional reform, economic development, active and pragmatic foreign relations, culture, education, welfare and improved relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

The ROC Constitution was promulgated on Dec. 25, 1947. After the government moved to Taiwan because of the communist rebellion it formulated provisional articles endowing the head of state with far more powers than originally enumerated in the constitution. Over the past four decades, these articles helped maintain social order, creating a base for Taiwan's economic miracle. However, return to constitutional rule and full democracy has always been a common desire.

In order to achieve this goal, three agencies have been set up over the past year to deal specifically with mainland affairs: The National Unification Council was established in October 1990 to make recommendations to the president on overall unification policy. The Mainland Affairs Council under the Executive Branch responsible for formulating, review and implementation of mainland policies and the Straits Exchange Foundation, a private organisation formed in February 1991 is commissioned to resolve problems resulting from people-to-people contacts and to handle practical affairs.

Relations with other countries

The Six-year National Development Plan which aims at accelerating the nation's modernisation process and calls for an estimated investment of \$300 billion has attracted the visits of foreign delegations to the ROC including those from France, Italy, Japan, and Sweden. In addition, the ROC played host to a number of foreign dignitaries, from countries with which it shares either diplomatic ties or at least substantive relations.

Despite suffering a setback with the severance of ROC-Saudi diplomatic relations, the ROC developed economic and trade ties with the Soviet Union and East European nations. Diplomatic ties were resumed with Nicaragua and the Central African Republic which in the past has been inextricably linked with Cuba is now coming into its own. And colourful celebrations of Chinese festivals such as the Lantern Festival continue to attract huge crowds of local residents and international tourists. This year, the event drew an estimated 2.42 million visitors to Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall.

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Al Jazireh humbles Al Orthodoxi with surprise win in U-19 basketball

By Aileen Baansyan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The under-19 basketball competition has undoubtedly proved to be an interesting event. It certainly has had its share of challenge, competition, surprises and upsets.

The team which has provided the element of surprise is of course Al Jazireh. After upsetting title-holders Al Ahli 87-82 last week they still had another surprise in store Tuesday — this time for Al Orthodoxi.

In one of the most exciting matches of the competition Al Jazireh beat Al Orthodoxi 63-62.

In the other match Al Ahli, who have suffered two successive humiliating defeats, managed to regain some of their confidence when they beat Al Watani 87-63.

Al Orthodoxi, confident of winning, led Al Jazireh at the beginning of the first half. But after the eleventh minute Al Jazireh led 16-15. However, Al Jazireh, playing with elevated

spirits and determination, won the first half 35-28. Al Orthodoxi managed to reduce the score at 53-52 in the 13th minute of the second half, but Al Jazireh's Mumzer Al Muheisen, Yousef Abu Baker and their teammates would not let go and managed to keep their lead at 63-59 before a three pointer from Muntaser Abu Al Tayyeh of Al Orthodoxi ended the match with a triumphant victory of 63-62 for Al Jazireh.

Al Jazireh, apparently not content with the No. 3 spot, now have a chance at being No. 2.

"This is the result of playing with determination and a fighting spirit," Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Al Sabbah told the Jordan Times.

In the other match, Al Watani gave Al Ahli a few difficult moments in the first half which Al Ahli won 35-30. In the second half Al Ahli expanded the score difference and won the match 87-63 thanks to their effective rebounding and more experienced players.

"We were playing man-to-man

defence throughout the match, which of course demands a lot of effort from our players. Had I had effective reserves to replace them the outcome of the match might have been different," Al Watani's head coach Ghait Al Najjar said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

Al Ahli's head coach Rizeq Al Masri, commenting on his team's successive losses in the past week could only say "they were not playing their usual game."

On Thursday Al Jazireh will play Al Watani while Al Ahli will play Al Orthodoxi in the finals of the under-19 competition.

The final standings of the teams depends on these matches which will be held at the Ahli court.

Al Orthodoxi will get the title if they beat Al Ahli, while Al Jazireh will be No. 2 provided they win their match against Al Watani.

Even if Al Orthodoxi lose their match against Al Ahli (provided it is by less than 24 points) they



Al Ahli Club's under-19 basketball team

will still get the title while Al Ahli will be second and Al Jazireh

more than 24 points, in which case Al Orthodoxi will be second and Al Jazireh third.

In the most unlikely possibility Al Ahli might retain the title if they beat Al Orthodoxi by

Graf, Sabatini advance in Zurich

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany defeated compatriot Eva Pfaff 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) Tuesday in the first round of the \$350,000 European Indoors Women's Tennis Tournament.

Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini also advanced to the second set, recovering from a 2-5 disadvantage.

Graf trounced her opponent in the first set in 20 minutes. But her returns weakened in the second

set, enabling Pfaff to hold all her service games. The 22-year-old German, ranked second in the world, served impressively throughout despite a nagging shoulder injury.

Sabatini, ranked third in the world, also faced a tough second set, recovering from a 2-5 disadvantage.

The 21-year-old Argentine made a series of unforced errors and rarely approached the net during the 90-minute match. Manikova entered the tourna-

IOC may drop several Olympic sports

BRUSSELS (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is considering dumping up to seven sports from the Olympic programme and replacing them with events such as triathlon, golf or even beach volleyball.

"Six or seven sports which have always been included but no longer comply with modern taste and needs may be scrubbed and replaced by others," Jacques Rogge, IOC member and chairman of the Association of European National Olympic Committees, said.

Mr. Rogge said triathlon would probably be included on the list, golf stood a good chance because of its popularity and beach volleyball was a possibility as it needed almost no facilities.

He declined to say which sports might go in the shake-up expected between the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 2000 games.

But a sports source, who asked not to be identified, said on Wednesday the most likely candidates appeared to be synchronised swimming, diving, water polo, modern pentathlon, rowing, canoeing, fencing, sailing and showjumping.

Mr. Rogge ruled out an increase in the current number of 26 Olympic sports.

"Sports like triathlon are already waiting at the door but they can't get in because there are

already too many sports... if one new sport is included, another will have to disappear," he told Reuters in an interview.

"It's quite revolutionary. So far sports have always been added and the few that disappeared, such as rugby, did so voluntarily."

Mr. Rogge said no decisions had been taken but endangered sports federations were lobbying hard to stay in the Olympic programme.

"For the moment we are holding discussions with these federations, that's why I don't want to give any names... it would be unfair," he said. "They should be given the chance, so they can prove they really can become popular."

Under threat are sports practised in a limited number of countries, which have never reached the level of register athletes. They register 10 to 20 athletes who don't belong at the games," Mr. Rogge said.

They have been given a warning. If they don't become popular, they get thrown out," he said.

He said the IOC would forbid new disciplines in any sport unless they replaced others.

"The big clean-up will be between Atlanta and 2000. We want

to give these sports the chance to develop as much as possible, to prove that they can handle it."

The IOC also plans drastic action in keeping the maximum number of athletes at future games to 10,000.

Mr. Rogge said the current number of 167 countries competing in the Olympics could mushroom to 190 or 195 by 1996, including breakaway Soviet republics and countries from Africa.

"If the number of athletes has to remain stable and the number of countries grows, of course there will be fewer athletes per country," he said.

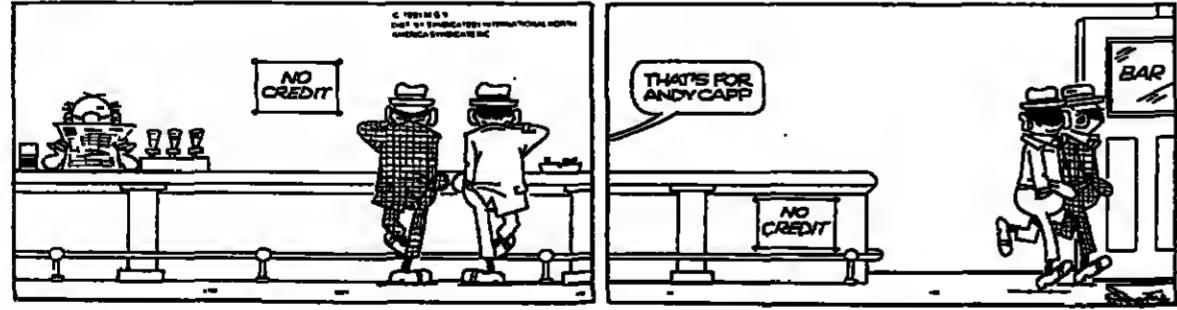
Tougher qualifying standards may help solve the problem. "Many Third World countries, which have never reached the level of register athletes. They register 10 to 20 athletes who don't belong at the games," Mr. Rogge said.

The measure would have a limited impact on next year's Barcelona Olympics but was bound to have a bigger influence in Atlanta, he added.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Becker makes convincing return at Tokyo Indoor Tennis Tournament

TOKYO (R) — World number two Boris Becker returned to action in convincing fashion Wednesday with a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 win in the second round of the million-dollar Tokyo Super Indoor Tennis Tournament.

The second seed German, playing his first match since his third round defeat at last month's U.S. Open, served 16 aces to overpower unseeded Swede Jan Gunnarsson in 62 minutes.

Top seed Stefan Edberg and third seed Ivan Lendl, who like Becker received first round byes, posted solid straight-set wins.

Becker was forced to pull out of Germany's Davis Cup semifinal against the United States with a thigh injury which he blamed for his U.S. Open defeat by Dutchman Paul Haarhuis.

"The time off helps my mind it helps a lot to relax," he said. "It's easier for me to come back and play (indoors), because I like the surface."

Becker had planned to make his comeback at last week's Australian Indoor Championship, but pulled out because of a persistent back injury.

The match got to be close and he started to serve much better.

But I also served better. He had a tough time to win points on my serve," said Becker.

His next opponent is 71st-ranked Japanese Shuzo Matsuo, who defeated American Robbie Weiss 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

Edberg eliminated American David Pate 6-2, 6-4 and meets 15th seed Frenchman Frederic Fontang, who defeated Gary Muller of South Africa 7-6 (7-3) 6-4.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is the time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Search out the means and the methods by which you are able to gain the good will of those clever businessmen who have it in their power to make you more prosperous.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An understanding friend and ally who knows modern trends and how to please mutual friends will let you in on some way you can get lots of bucking.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are so many obligations facing you and you are so able to do them in such an interesting and unique fashion that you can get much done today.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to show you do value the good will of those in power by quietly showing you appreciate them and getting suggestions from them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You find that your friends and acquaintances will release to you many ideas and courses of action that can gain you your heart's desire quickly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that brings to light the various means by which you feel you can attend to responsibilities so other are more pleased.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today she or he is inclined to be intolerant about others views and interests unless they receive special training from you that will make them focus on the serious standpoints that are being shared by others. Combining a fine mental capacity with practical capability of an unusual nature makes it possible for this child to succeed in a big way.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life if largely up to you.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

own family and get what will increase family accord.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your moment to get out and to speak plainly to your usual allies about what they feel and you can do better daily progress.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Now you find that whatever you wish to do is all right so long as you look at the practical aspects and forget the personal facing you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a considerable number of personal ambitions that are right at your fingertips if you will concentrate on them and do what you must.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now need to sit back and to note whatever ideas you have missed and that can help you to make a greater success of your everyday existence.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to what blunt speaking friend has to say for much truth is contained there can be most helpful to you in seeking your personal longings.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to really find out what an official will do for you to help you gain some vocational or civic activity that is vital to you.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life if largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS



"Are kisses low in fat and cholesterol?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Herl Arnold and Bob Lee

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOSIN

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DASSIT

RASHEE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: MINCE BUSHY DECENT CANYON

Answer: When a young man sees too many wild cats, it won't take long for him to start looking -- "SEEDY."

THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Ragus

CROSS

1 Sunday

5 Household

10 Key letter

14 Places

15 Excuse

16 Coat

18 Soon

20 Laundry

20 Lively

22 Celebration

23 Purple

24 Country

33 Stand out

34 Pet or animal

35 My league

36 Student

37 Brood

38 Hail

Financial Markets		Jogging Times			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets		New York Close	Tokyo Close		
Currency	Date 8/10/1991	Date 9/10/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.7050	1.7050			
Deutsche Mark	1.7057	1.7070			
Swiss Franc	1.4910	1.4910			
French Franc	5.8040	5.8010			
Japanese Yen	130.33	130.65			
European Currency Unit	1.2009	1.2025			
USD per STU	European Opening \$1.2000 U.S. GMT				
Interest rates	Date: 9/10/1991				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.45	5.25	5.45	
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.72	10.06	9.95	
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.25	
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.87	
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.31	9.37	
Japanese Yen	6.75	6.55	6.25	6.00	
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.75	9.81	9.81	
Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals	Date: 9/10/1991				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	356.85	7.00	Silver	4.07	.095
21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	Date: 9/10/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689			
Sterling Pound	1.1676	1.1734			
Deutsche Mark	.4079	.4039			
Swiss Franc	.4601	.4624			
French Franc	.1181	.1187			
Japanese Yen	.5257	.5293			
Dutch Guilder	.3570	.3588			
Swedish Krona	.1103	.1109			
Italian Lira	.0538	.0541			
Belgian Franc	.01966	.01976			
Per 100					
Other Currencies	Date: 9/10/1991				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7930	1.8050			
Lebanese Lira	.0772	.0776			
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1839			
Kuwaiti Dinar					
Qatari Riyal	.1863	.1873			
Egyptian Pound	.2090	.2190			
Omani Riyal	1.7990	1.7990			
UAE Dirham	.1863	.1873			
Greek Drachma	.3650	.3725			
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.4600			
Per 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	7/10/1991 Close	8/10/1991 Close			
All-Share	122.43	122.35			
Banking Sector	103.44	103.12			
Insurance Sector	124.55	125.44			
Industry Sector	151.45	151.56			
Services Sector	129.19	129.85			
December 31, 1990 = 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One Sterling	1.7015/25
One U.S. dollar	1.1285/90
	1.7075/80
1.9210/20	1.4920/25
35.08/12	5.8075/8125
127.51/274	130.70/80
6.2200/50	6.670/6820
6.670/6820	6.570/5820
One ounce of gold	357.30/70

CONCORD
Cinema
Tel: 677420
HEAVENLY BODIES
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Tel: 675571
Today and every day
SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY
Starring: The family of 'Abu Awad neighbourhood'
Shows start at 8:30 every evening.
★ Early reservation is preferable due to great demand.

Bush eases bank loan regulations

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush approved steps Tuesday to help alleviate the nation's tight credit conditions and speed economic recovery by making it easier for small businesses to get bank loans.

While Mr. Bush described the proposals as a "very comprehensive programme," an outline of the measures being taken showed that in many cases they made only minor changes to a programme first unveiled last March.

One of the biggest changes announced Tuesday would institute a new appeals process for bankers who think that federal regulators are being too tough on them.

They would be able to appeal the decisions of bank examiners directly to senior officials at the regulatory agencies without going through normal channels.

These new appeals would be kept confidential in an attempt to answer complaints of bankers who say they are reluctant to appeal decisions currently for fear of angering the examiners they have to deal with on a regular basis.

Another change announced Tuesday would increase the amount of preferred stock that



George Bush

banks can count as part of the capital they must hold based on the size of their outstanding loans.

Many banks find it easier to issue preferred rather than common stock and they had lobbied for this change. By expanding the amount of preferred stock that can be counted as capital, the administration hopes to expand the lending capacity for many banks.

Other changes in the package seek to limit the costs of appraisals for small businesses and home owners, to promote ways of ensuring that bankers and bank examiners understand the liberalised guidelines and to develop new guidelines for appraising the value of real estate in depressed markets.

Developing countries cannot ask for forgiveness of debts if they spend \$200 million for their military... if there is tremendous corruption in the system and if there is massive capital flight and people do not take a chance on their own systems," he said.

Mr. Mahbub is attending the Asian and Pacific Ministerial conference on social welfare and social development sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The conference began Monday and ends Friday.

"Price management and targeting (of production) will not be included (in the agenda)," Mr. Lumsden told reporters during an energy conference in Jakarta.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said: "Consumers do not like to discuss price fixing but that is also not in the interests of OPEC."

Mr. Lumsden cautioned that talks would have to stick to technical matters and avoid the politics which have driven a wedge in the past between consumers and OPEC.

He suggested four areas of

U.N. official advocates conditional write-off of debts

MANILA (AP) — A U.N. official Wednesday called for international talks to write off developing countries' debt if they agree to divert savings to education and technology and not to corrupt rulers.

Mahbub Ul Haq, special adviser to the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said developing countries cannot continue collecting debts from poor nations while denying them trade access.

Developing nations currently owe about \$1.3 trillion to foreign governments, banks and other lending institutions.

"There certainly is in favour of a very major global bargain to write off this debt," Mr. Mahbub, former finance minister of Pakistan, told reporters. "This kind of debt can never be paid."

Mr. Mahbub said developing countries, however, must show greater responsibility in managing their financial affairs in return for a debt write-off.

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IMF calls on industrial nations to tighten belts

BANGKOK (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned leading industrial nations Wednesday that long-term economic growth would be under threat unless they forced through tough public-spending cuts.

The IMF said in its latest economic forecast that the United States, Britain and Canada would help drag the world economy out of the doldrums in 1992 as they rebounded from their first recession in a decade.

World economic growth is poised to accelerate to 2.8 per cent next year after slumping to less than one per cent in 1991, according to the forecast, issued just before the annual meeting here of the IMF and the World Bank.

But the fund tempered its upbeat forecast with a warning that

recovery could be short-lived.

Massive new demands on the war-shattered Middle East, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and a newly-reunified Germany can be met only by fiscal belt-tightening by the leading industrial economies, the IMF said.

"New demands for saving

associated with reconstruction in the Middle East, German unification and reform in Eastern Europe and the USSR could amount to almost \$100 billion in 1991," it said.

The IMF also expected a further \$80 billion a year would have to be found between 1992 and 1996.

As private saving — money that individuals and businesses put by — steadily falls throughout

the industrial world, pressure is mounting on governments to borrow less by cutting spending.

Governments that run large fiscal deficits by spending more than they raise through taxes compete with private borrowers for savings, driving up interest rates.

The fund is counting on the United States, Italy, Germany, and Canada to deliver on promises to cut their ballooning deficits.

"Achievement of these fiscal objectives is essential to sustain growth in the industrial world in the 1990s against the background of rising demands for saving in other regions and declining private saving in the industrial countries," it said.

If industrial nations fail to rein

in spending over the next five years, world interest rates could be driven up by one half of a percentage point, the IMF added.

However, success would secure growth of 3.25 per cent in the industrial world between 1992 and 1996.

Inflation was expected to ease in the major industrial countries but the fund said the United States, Britain and Canada would have to be ready to put on the brakes by tightening credit if their recession-hit economies rebounded too quickly.

The combined current account deficit of the industrial nations was set to jump to \$100 billion in 1992 from \$35 billion in 1991, reflecting higher commodity prices and a phasing out of extraordinary payments arising from the Gulf war.

The IMF predicted strong growth next year in Africa, Asia and Latin America and a sharp recovery in the Middle East as economies in the region repair damage inflicted by conflict.

The fund said there would be no recovery in the Soviet Union unless sweeping economic reforms were put in place.

"In the USSR, a recovery of economic activity in the years ahead would require the expeditious implementation of a comprehensive programme of macroeconomic stabilisation and systematic reforms," the report said.

A modest recovery in Eastern Europe was in store next year but it hinged on continued efforts to press ahead with market reforms in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland.

Court accepts \$1 billion Exxon Valdez settlement

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) —

A federal judge has accepted a \$1 billion settlement between Exxon and the state and federal governments to end the government's litigation over the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

U.S. District Judge H. Russell Holland also accepted guilty pleas from Exxon and its shipping subsidiary and approved a \$900 million civil settlement and \$125 million in criminal fines and restitution.

Mr. Holland said Exxon's voluntary efforts to pay some civil claims and its work over the last three summers to clean up Prince William Sound were the most important factors in his decision.

"Obviously, Exxon Corporation is very large and has been very profitable. But what is now very clear to me is that Exxon has been a good corporate citizen," Mr. Holland said. "It is sensitive to its environmental obligations.

James Neal, lead attorney for Exxon's Shipping Company, said he thought Exxon's attorney earlier had done a bad job of portraying the company's environmental record. "This time we did a much better job," he said.

"Prince William Sound won, and the trial lawyers lost," Mr. Neal said.

The settlement ends all state and federal litigations over the 1989 accident, but would have no effect on civil suits by individuals.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Russian vice-president says government sliding into anarchy

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's deputy said Tuesday the republic was sliding into anarchy and denounced a tentative economic agreement with other republics as banditry, Interfax News Agency said.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi told the Russian Parliament that no-one in government was bearing responsibility for decisions and that the economy continued to slide.

At the same time, Soviet television said Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Gavrilov resigned, complaining that the republic's leaders were embroiled in unnecessary conflicts with other republics.

Internal power struggles were also hindering the republic in its efforts to save the economy from ruin, Interfax quoted him as saying in his resignation letter to Mr. Yeltsin.

"We are building mountains of laws, but no-one is carrying them out, there being no effective mechanism of state control... as a result, anarchy is descending upon the republic," Mr. Rutskoi said.

His comments came after a week of acrimonious clashes in the Russian Federation, with one senior official describing a colleague as a "brat" and others accusing Mr. Yeltsin of circumventing his government.

Mr. Rutskoi described an economic cooperation treaty initially by 12 republics in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata this month as a "graphic example of banditry." Russia, he said, was being milked

like a cow by other republics. The treaty, already signed by three republics, could ensure this continued.

The Russian vice-president, contradicting the thinking of several other republican leaders, said Russia must found a political union with other republics before thinking about any economic association. If need be, it should ally with just a core of perhaps two other republics.

Mr. Yeltsin has been on holiday at the Black Sea resort of Sochi and made no public comment on the Alma-Ata agreement, a three-year treaty designed to halt economic disintegration and ensure cooperation between republics.

He is likely to declare shortly after his return Thursday whether on what terms Russia will sign the deal.

But signs of impatience are growing within the Russian administration, with several leading officials hinting at possible unilateral steps by Russia, by far the most powerful republic.

Interfax said Gennady Burlbulis, one of Mr. Yeltsin's closest advisers, had told the president in Sochi he believed Russia should steer a path to independence by declaring itself the legal successor of the Soviet state — a move that would formally break ties with other republics.

Mr. Burlbulis said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had reacted with "extreme anxiety" to the suggestion. Mr. Yeltsin, he said, reacted "normally." He

gave no details.

Meanwhile former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Tuesday economic hardship and hunger could prompt a second right-wing coup in the Soviet Union and won backing from Britain for his campaign to remove Soviet troops from his country.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who resigned his government post last December predicting a right-wing dictatorship, told a Moscow conference of U.S. investors that inflation, failing industrial production and food shortages could all stir social tensions.

The country would then be only a short from angry demonstrations and extremist sentiments that could be exploited by right-wingers.

"The threat of a right-wing coup... is still there to be reckoned with," Mr. Shevardnadze said, according to Interfax. "It does not come from any specific structures but may be rooted in the deteriorating economic situation."

President Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown for three days in August by a group of right-wing Communists backed by the KGB and army. Since his return to power, the Communist Party has been broken as a political force and the security forces brought to heel.

But though effective power has now devolved to the republics, they have yet to decide a clear strategy for transfer to a market economy and are still divided over an economic treaty to ensure mutual deliveries of food and industrial goods.

In a separate development, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis warned the West Tuesday there could be a second coup in the Soviet Union and won backing from Britain for his campaign to remove Soviet troops from his country.

The leader of the breakaway Baltic republic told a news conference the conditions which led to August's failed coup against President Gorbachev still existed.

"Although the coup did not succeed, the communist Party structure and the government of the old guard is continuing and they will naturally attempt to remain in power," he said.

Mr. Landsbergis said the armed forces were still unhappy and the economy was in chaos.

These factors had created "the opportunity for political forces to come to the fore which have Russian nationalist and possibly fascist associations."

Mr. Landsbergis, who addressed the annual conference of Britain's ruling Conservative Party in Blackpool, later won support from Prime Minister John Major over his campaign to press Moscow to remove its troops from Lithuania, a former Soviet republic.

"The prime minister told President Landsbergis that the British government strongly supported the desire of Lithuanians to see the withdrawal of Soviet Armed Forces from Lithuanian territory effected as soon as possible," a statement said.

"He said he would press the Soviet Union to do this."

U.S. sends medical supplies to S. Union

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Tuesday sent an airift of \$2.3 million in medical supplies to the industrially polluted Ural Mountain area of the Russian Republic.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the shipment was part of the humanitarian medical initiative announced by President George Bush last December.

It brought to \$13.2 million the total amount of donated medicines and related supplies distributed in the Soviet Union under the initiative.

Mrs. Tutwiler said the shipment of badly needed supplies, including intravenous sets, syringes, bandages, surgical gloves, thermometers and infant formulas, would be divided among 11 medical institutions, including children's and maternity hospitals, in the cities of Sverdlovsk, Tymen and Chelyabinsk.

This area was chosen in response to the variety of chronic illnesses in the area, which were partly caused by industrial pollution," she said.

Project Hope, an international non-profit health organization, is coordinating the shipment with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The supplies were shipped from Dulles Airport on a charter plane provided by the Soviet government.

Earlier this year, shipments went to Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Sakhalin Island, Moscow and the Chernobyl area of the Ukraine.

In a separate development, the Soviet Union welcomed the \$2.5 billion aid package announced by Japan Tuesday, saying it would get next week's visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama off to a good start.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said there was no apparent solution to the territorial dispute between the two countries.

"The documentary evidence is contradictory," he told reporters after a news briefing. "The Japanese seem to have a solid claim, but we feel we have a solid claim too."

Moscow would welcome any solution which satisfied public opinion in both countries, he said.

The four islands just off northern Japan were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II and Tokyo has refused to sign a formal peace treaty until they are handed back.

Mr. Churkin said Mr. Nakayama, who arrives Saturday, would discuss the islands during his visit. "We always do," he said.

He will meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose giant republic includes the disputed territory.

The regional government in Sakhalin, which has jurisdiction over the islands, has pledged to fight any deal under which Moscow would return them in exchange for Japanese aid and investment in the ailing Soviet economy.

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said in Tokyo that the aid package was meant as a message of support for reform and not a bargaining chip in the territorial dispute.

"This does not mean we have abandoned our position to seek the return to the northern territories," the official said, using Tokyo's name for the islands.

Haiti president sworn in; OAS calls it illegal

PONT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's parliament, watched by leaders of a military coup, formally installed the senior judge of the supreme court Tuesday as provisional president.

In a ceremony boycotted by Western diplomats and more than one-third of 110 parliamentarians, Joseph Narette, 67, took an oath of office replacing ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Hours after Judge Narette was sworn in, the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington declared the new government illegal and urged its members to freeze Haitian assets and stop trading with the country.

The OAS also said it would ask the United Nations to urge its members to impose a similar embargo and freeze the impoverished Caribbean nation's assets world-wide.

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Hill, 35, said Sunday that Judge Thomas pressured her to date him and made explicit sexual remarks to her, including talking about pornographic films.

Thomas, 43, is a conservative black appeals court judge. He has been named to replace retiring liberal Thurgood Marshall, the only black to have served on the Supreme Court.

"It's most unfortunate that we have been placed in this situation," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said in announcing the postponement.

Judge Thomas' confirmation has been suddenly clouded by a charge of sexual harassment.

Thomas, President George Bush's choice for the high court, has denied the allegation.

The charges came from Anita Hill, who worked for Judge Thomas at the education department and when he was head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission a decade ago.

Now a law professor at the University of Oklahoma, Ms.

United News of India (UNI)

of constitutional backing to the eight-day-old coup and complicated international efforts to reconstitute Mr. Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president.

Coup leader Brigadier-General Raoul Cedras, who sat in a front-row chair throughout the ceremony, was applauded when he and a half dozen aides arrived at the parliament dressed in military uniforms.

On Monday soldiers had ringed the parliament, fired in the air and barred parliamentarians from leaving until they formally voted that Mr. Aristide had vacated his office.

Under Haiti's constitution, if the office of president is vacated the senior supreme court judge takes the post.

The United States and other Western nations made clear Tuesday they would not recognise the provisional government because it was installed at gunpoint.

France Tuesday condemned the appointment of the provisional president of Haiti, describing the move as a "pseudo-constitutional coup d'etat."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said Haitian troops had forced parliamentary legislators into appointing Supreme Court Justice Narette as president and had thereby "dug themselves ever deeper into illegality."

"Those who suffer the most from this are the Haitian people who have already suffered enough," Mr. Bernard said.

Mr. Bernard said France was demanding the army's return to barracks and the restoration of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who has been offered political asylum in France.

COLUMN

Frozen blood sculpture to go on show

LONDON (R) — British art lovers with a strong stomach can this week ponder a head made from the frozen blood of its creator. The blood was shaped in a rubber mould of the head of 27-year-old artist March Quinn and is meant to express the precarious balance between life and death. The head comes in a special freezer and display cabinet. Quinn gave eight pints of his own blood in monthly intervals to provide the raw material for the sculpture, entitled Self. "The work is there, but if it were uniform it would just be a pool of blood. In the same way if somebody is alive they are there, but when they die they are not and you cannot say where they have gone," said Quinn, a former croupier. The piece is the latest addition to Britain's prestigious Saatchi collection of art and will go on public show in a central London gallery from Friday.

Village will not pay for false news

COLOMBO (R) — A village council in southern Sri Lanka has voted to stop paying licence fees for the radio and television sets it uses, saying they were broadcasting distorted and false news. Radio and television in Sri Lanka are state-owned. The motion was moved by opposition member P. Jayasinghe of the Habaraduwa village council who said broadcast news was not impartial and facts were concealed to mislead the public, the Island newspaper said Wednesday. The village council passed the motion by a majority of two votes with members of the ruling United National Party voting against it, the newspaper said.

BBC to broadcast on Russian Radio

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said it signed a landmark deal Wednesday to put World Service programmes on Russian Radio. Two 30-minute current affairs programmes from the BBC's Russian Service will be broadcast each weekend on Radio Russia from early in 1992 after years of jamming and hostility. "This is the first deal of its kind to be concluded between a Western broadcaster and a Russian Radio station," said World Service Managing Director John Tusa. "Coming less than five years since the Soviet Union stopped jamming the BBC, it marks a new high point for our strategy of winning airtime for BBC programmes on domestic radio frequencies." Programmes will be beamed to Moscow by satellite and rebroadcast simultaneously nationwide.

EC tightens up use of seat belts

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) transport ministers have agreed to force car passengers to sit in seats fitted with seat belts rather than those which are not, EC officials said. The move has been ordered civil servants to inform relatives with links to dissent groups. Those seen to be slackening in their duties will be transferred to other provinces.

U.S. Senate delays vote on judge Thomas

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has postponed its confirmation vote on Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas for a week to investigate charges of sexual misconduct levelled by a former aide.

The agreement to postpone the vote scheduled Tuesday evening to Oct. 15 came after a dramatic debate on and off the Senate floor.

The regional government in Sakhalin, which has jurisdiction over the islands, has pledged to fight any deal under which Moscow would return them in exchange for Japanese aid and investment in the ailing Soviet economy.

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"It's most unfortunate that we have been placed in this situation," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said in announcing the postponement.

Judge Thomas' appointment would have further tilted the balance of the Supreme Court along conservative lines. Some Americans are concerned that a conservative court might overturn a 1973 landmark ruling that legalised abortion.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said it was not certain that Judge Thomas would have been confirmed if the vote had been held.

The news agency said the abduction was witnessed by a French diplomat who was behind Mr. Radu's car. The diplomat, who was not identified, informed the Romanian embassy, which later contacted the Foreign Ministry, UNI said.

By the time the ministry got in touch with the police, two hours had elapsed, the news agency said.

The French embassy said it was not aware of the circumstances reported by UNI. The Foreign Ministry spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

In a separate development, Indian security forces battling Muslim separatists in the Himalayan Jammu and Kashmir state came under heavy fire from militants after they detained a key guerrilla leader Tuesday.

Two people were hit in the

crossfire between militants and paramilitary troops in the state capital, Srinagar after the arrest of Noor Muhammad Kalwal, deputy leader of the Janmoham and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) guerrilla group, witnessed said.

JKLF Chief Commander Javed Ahmad Mir, confirming the arrest to Reuters, declared: "The movement itself will not stop even if only one Kashmiri is left to carry it on."